



THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES  
AND BERAR

1923-24

10820

A REPORT ON THE  
ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE PROVINCE

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A REVIEW OF THE  
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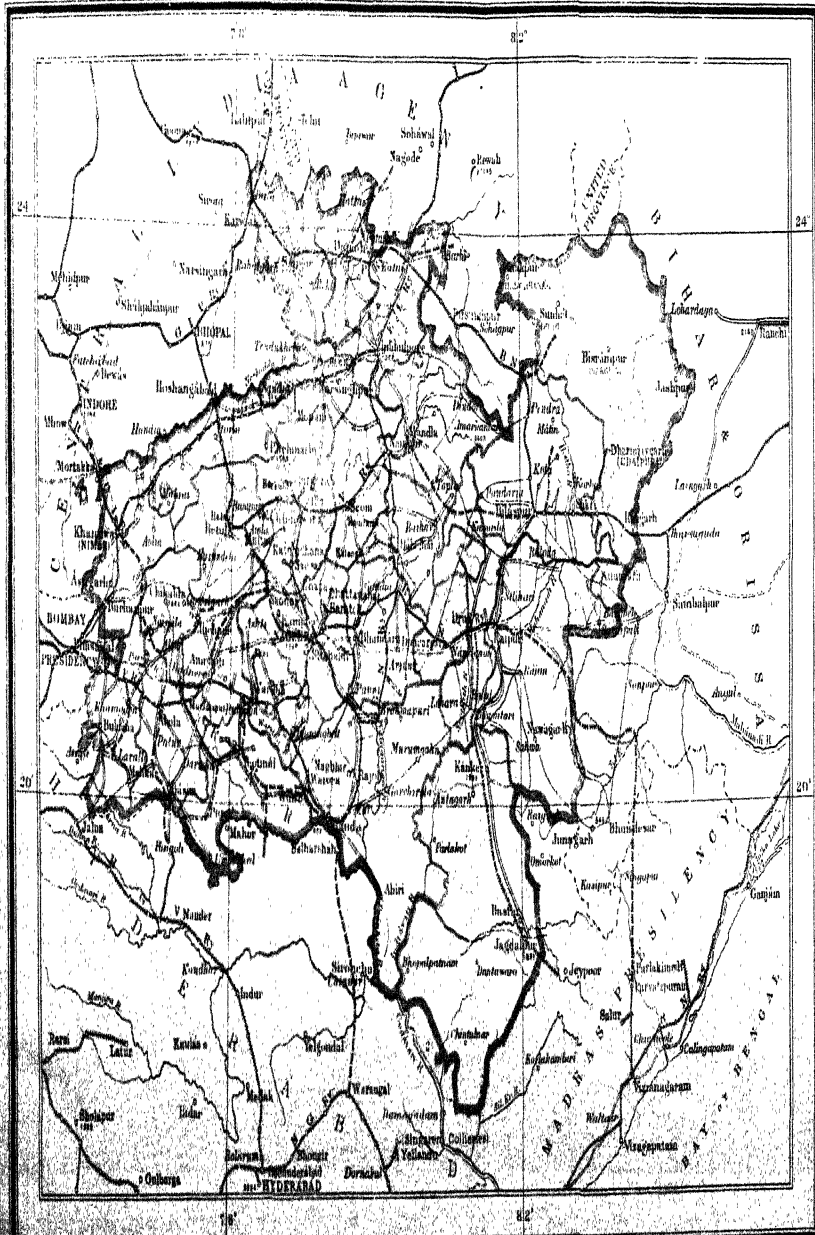


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PRICE, ONE RUPEE



# ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923-24 OF CENTRAL PROVINCES



REFERENCE

Map No. 1000 of the Survey of India, 1900-1901

Reg. No. 1000 of the Survey of India, 1900-1901

1. SCALE  
2. CHART

Scale 1 inch = 40 miles



# CONTENTS.

## VOLUME I.

### PART I

#### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

	Page		Page
General	v	Mineral	vi
Physical Situation	v	Immigration	vi
Conditions of the people	vi	Trade	vi
Settlement	x	Local Self Government	vi
Public Health	x	Education	vi
Legislative Council	x	Work of the Legislative Council	vi
Finance	x	Co-operative Credit	vi
Ministry of Agriculture	x	Public	vi
Public Industries and Commerce	x		

### PART II.

#### DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS

##### CHAPTER I—POLITICAL AND GENERAL

	Page		Page
1—Physical Features (Climate and Products)	1	7—Civil Divisions of British Territory	11
2—Historical Summary	1	8—Details of the First Census	11
3—The Constitution	1	9—Composition of the local Government 1923-24	11
4—Organization of Public Services and Department	1	10—Relations with India	11
5—Character of Land Tenures and Systems of Survey and Settlement...	11	11—Status	11
		12—Condition of the people	11

##### CHAPTER II—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

1—Realization of Revenue	7	6—Government estate	11
2—Surveys	8	7—Wards' estates	11
3—Settlement	11	8—Revenue and rent paying clauses	11
4—Land Records	11		
5—Waste lands	11		

## CHAPTER III- PROSECUTION

## PAGE

1—Course of Legislation	1	2—M	3
2—Police	1	3—Police	1
3—Criminal Justice	15	4—M	1
4—Prisons	15	5—M	1
5—Criminal Justice	15		

## CHAPTER IV- PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY

1—Agriculture	1	2—M	1
2—Co-operative Societies	1	3—M	1
3—Veterinary Department	1	4—M	1
4—Wealth and Culture	1	5—M	1
5—Horticulture	1	6—M	1
6—Forests	1	7—M	1
7—Estate	1		

## CHAPTER V- FINANCE AND TAXES

1—Gross Revenue and Expenditure	1	2—M	1
2—Revenue and Finance Committee	1		

## CHAPTER VI- VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

1—Births and Death	1	2—M	1
2—Emigration and Immigration	1	3—M	1
3—Medical Relief	1		

## CHAPTER VII- INSTRUCTION

1—Education	1	2—M	1
2—Literature and the Press	1	3—M	1

## CHAPTER VIII- MISCELLANEOUS

1—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction	67	2—M	1
2—Stationery	7		

## ADMINISTRATION REPORT

### CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

#### PART

#### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

During the preceding year the Central Provinces have continued to make slow but steady progress. Good harvest and ready disposal of produce have led to improvement in the economic condition of the people, which in the process of recovery, and the hope of optimism running through the preceding year, report has been justified. There has been a remarkable improvement in the financial position, and given a sane and sober legislature the province can confidently look forward to an era of development and progress.

##### **The Political Situation**

2. The preceding year's review contained a comprehensive account of the political situation as it stood at the end of March 1924. It traced the rise to predominance, at the expense of Gandhian non-co operation, of a party pledged to a policy of uncompromising obstruction within the Legislative Council; it referred to the episode of the flag agitation, which represented a futile attempt on the part of the local 'no-change' leaders to resuscitate their dying creed; and it recorded the deplorable results of the obstructive tactics pursued in the Council by the dominant Swaraj majority. Politically, the subsequent period has been barren of achievement or incident. The 'no-change' party has shown fitful signs of life in the north of the province but has not



regained the ground lost to the Swarajists. The strength of the latter has not diminished by outward appearance and, indeed, recent events outside the province seem to have given them an accession of strength. They continue to present a united front and there are no clear indications of a change of heart, although individuals from among them have declared that accepting office is no longer incompatible with their creed as last revised. In Berar which has always been less extreme than it appears, in a meeting held to commemorate the anniversary of Tilak's death the real inclinations of the Maratha Swarajists were revealed by their eulogy of Tilak's policy of responsive co-operation. Attempts made by the liberal party to organize themselves and to enlarge their following have not been attended with conspicuous success, but there is noticeable among them an increasing consciousness of the value of party discipline and organization. Of organizations which have a political significance, mention must be made of the several non-Brahmin organizations in Berar, and in particular of the Berar Maratha Agriculturists' League which aims at securing political advance to the Berar Marathas and is hostile to the present Swaraj policy of obstruction.

3. During April, May and June Government endeavoured by means of publicity leaflets to expose to the electorate the folly of the policy pursued by their elected representatives and to bring home to them its evil consequences: His Excellency the Governor has also during his tours taken the opportunity of pointing out to the people the stagnation in the nation-building departments which has resulted from the refusal of the Legislative Council to vote grants for schemes of development. In his recent Darbar speeches he has endeavoured to rouse the important landholding classes to a sense of their responsibilities and has reminded them that they are the natural leaders of the people and must assume the rôle which is legitimately theirs. The Home Member has also addressed several public meetings in Berar and exposed the utter futility of the Swarajist policy. The Swaraj party has carried on a sporadic counter-propaganda with a view to neutralize the effect of plain speaking on the part of Government and its officers. There is reason to believe that the

electorate is beginning to realize the true position of affairs, and the example of Government has encouraged the formation of anti-Swaraj associations in almost every part of the province. What is required is sustained propaganda on the part of these non-official associations with a view to place before the people balanced and sober views on public affairs. If the efforts of Government in this direction remain unsupplemented by the efforts of the leaders of moderate opinion, it is improbable that they will leave any permanent impression on the minds of an ignorant and apathetic electorate.

4. In the meanwhile, the deadlock created by the action of the Swaraj party has continued, and the transferred subjects are still being administered by His Excellency the Governor under the Transferred Subjects (Temporary Administration) Rules. His Excellency the Governor has not thought it desirable to order a dissolution of the Council, as there is yet no reasonable hope that the electors will return representatives pledged to work and not to wreck the constitution. In order, however, to give the Swarajists a further opportunity of working the constitution in a legitimate manner, the budget which will be presented to the Council in March next will be prepared on the assumption that the transferred departments will be in charge of Ministers, and will include provision for new schemes of development in those departments. Whether the Swarajists in the province will have the moral courage to grasp this opportunity of retrieving the error of their policy is doubtful, but a strong trend of opinion in favour of accepting office is increasingly discernible in the ranks of that party. Whichever way they may ultimately decide, it is evident that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in regard to the transferred subjects is not likely to be indefinitely prolonged.

#### **Condition of the people.**

5. The monsoon of 1923 was again favourable, and although the crops were not outstandingly good, both the *kharij* and *rabi* harvests were up to the average. The monsoon of 1924, which was late in arrival and deficient through much of

its course, gave cause to some anxiety, particularly in Chhattisgarh. Opportune rainfall towards the end of the season, however, relieved the situation, and the outturn of *kharif* crops in the cotton area and in the rice area outside Chhattisgarh is fair. In Chhattisgarh the rice crop is likely to be poor, a plague of grasshoppers and insects damaged the maturing crops, particularly in the wet lands of the Raipur District, and suspensions of revenue and *taccavi* loans may have to be granted on a large scale and a part of the irrigation revenue remitted.

6. In 1923-24 cropping exceeded the figure of the previous year by 147,000 acres and is now only two per cent below the average of the quinquennium ending 1917-18, which except for a partial failure in 1913-14, was a period of ordinary prosperity. The maximum figure of over 25 million acres was reached in 1915-16, but the small decline that has occurred since that year does not represent deterioration except in a small degree and can be attributed to several causes. In the north of the province there is a wholesome tendency to leave more land fallow for grazing, and in some places where jungle villages adjoin rich open ones, cropping tends to be concentrated on the better soils, much inferior land being left untilled for grazing and for fodder. In the south of the province increased activity in the forests has led to some contraction of cropping. While, on the one hand, this activity gives the agriculturists a useful and profitable subsidiary occupation, on the other hand, it leads to the neglect of the *rabi* land and induces them to overwork their cattle in the carting of heavy loads of timber. In the more backward parts of the province rising prices have retarded rather than stimulated cultivation, because the people find that by confining themselves to their main crop they secure enough to satisfy their simple needs. Also, in Chanda and in large parts of Chhattisgarh, a smaller area of embanked and relatively stable rice land has taken the place of a larger area sown with unembanked rice or with minor millets, much of which was grown in half-cleared fields. Further, between 1915-16 and 1923-24 the area of Government irrigation has risen from 52,000 acres to 438,000

acres, and this increase has made much precarious rice land secure except in the worst years. Bare figures of cropped area therefore cannot be taken as an index of agricultural prosperity or the reverse. It is only in the wilder portions of the province that the bad years of 1918-19 and 1920-21 and the heavy mortality of the influenza epidemic have still left their trace on cropping. Last year the price of *bhari* food-grains rose somewhat high and that of *rabi* food-grains fell, but cotton prices of the 1923-24 season averaged about 35 per cent above those of the previous year, which were themselves high. The results of the continued high prices of cotton are shown by the inquiries recently made by the Settlement Officer, Buldana. In the Khairagaon and Malkapur taluqs the sale price of land during the last five years, after excluding unusually high prices which for some special reason cannot be considered representative, has averaged about 130 times the land revenue, and the letting price about ten times. Cotton prices in the current season have fallen somewhat, and the price of uncleaned cotton has varied from Rs. 150 to Rs. 177 per khandi of 784 lbs. as against Rs. 207 to Rs. 257 per khandi for the period between the 1st November and the 31st December. The number of plough-cattle increased slightly in 1923-24, while the number of milch cows showed a rise of as much as 12 per cent; but as argued in last year's report, the number is already far too high for an efficient supply of milk: were the animals even fair milkers. Despite sporadic plague and cholera public health was on the whole good, and agricultural labourers commanded ample employment on wages, which, compared with the standards of a few years ago, were high.

#### Crops.

7. The cropped area again showed an increase over that of the preceding year, although the difference was not so great as that recorded for 1922-23 and only amounted to less than two hundred thousand acres against half a million acres in the previous year. The total cropped area is now only two per cent below the average for the five years ending 1917-18. The increase is most marked in the Chhattisgarh Division. The area under double crops again rose, but the

increase occurred mostly in Chhattisgarh where favourable rain was received in October. Rice was grown over an area only slightly exceeding that of the previous year. The cotton area expanded by nearly one hundred thousand acres in the Central Provinces, but decreased by over twenty thousand acres in Berar. The increase in the Central Provinces can be attributed to the high prices obtained for cotton in the previous year, which encouraged extended planting in many districts. In this the cultivator was helped by favourable climatic conditions at sowing time. The areas under wheat, wheat and gram sown as a mixture, and linseed also showed an increase. This was partly due to favourable sowing conditions and also to the fact that *rabi* crops were sown in areas where *kharif* crops had failed. The average outturns of rice, juar and cotton were slightly under normal and about equal to the yields of the preceding year. Linseed was a somewhat light crop, but wheat and gram, although yielding less than in 1922-23, gave normal crops. In general, the year was one of continued recovery.

#### Seasons.

8. The regular monsoon of 1923 did not set in until the beginning of July although light showers were received in the latter half of June. A good start was, however, made with *kharif* sowings and germination was successful. As the season continued, the rainfall proved to be insufficient for rice in some districts, but the need for a break to enable weeding operations to be undertaken was felt in the cotton and juar tracts. Such a break was established in September and the usual cultural operations on *kharif* crops were carried out, while the ploughing of land for *rabi* crops was also possible. In general, the rainfall was rather too abundant for *kharif* crops on heavy land, but it was suitable for rice. After the close of the monsoon hot and cloudy weather prevailed resulting in a certain amount of damage to ripening crops. The monsoon of 1924 started about the middle of June and rainfall of varying degrees of intensity was received in most districts. Towards the end of the month a break occurred and rain was urgently needed almost everywhere. In general,

the monsoon cannot be described entirely a satisfactory one and there were anxious time in the rice districts at certain periods during the growing season. In part of the cotton tracts heavy falls of rain were occasionally experienced and some damage was done. On the whole, the intensity of the rainfall varied considerably and the showers were in some cases not sufficiently heavy to fill the tanks and reservoirs. In the cotton districts the situation improved, and although unsatisfactory at the beginning, the monsoon eventually surpassed earlier expectations. The situation in the rice tracts was saved to a certain extent by timely rains towards the end of the monsoon, but the work of transplanting rice was seriously hindered. Two features of the year 1924 were outbreaks of pests of caterpillars in parts of Berar and of grasshoppers and other insects in Chhattisgarh. Heavy showers in the month of October did a certain amount of damage to ripening crops but, on the other hand, the promise for the *rabi* season is good.

#### Public Health.

9. The year 1923 was a healthy one. A favourable monsoon provided good crops and a plentiful water-supply; prices remained steady and the general economic conditions were satisfactory. The recovery made by the province from the post influenzal depression was reflected in the birth-rate, which was 45·63, the lowest recorded during the past five years. In spite of the high birth-rate, which is usually accompanied by a high infantile mortality, the death-rate of 30·53 per mille was little in excess of the exceptionally low figure recorded last year, *viz.*, 29·31. The province was free from serious epidemics. Small-pox was almost entirely absent, cholera and plague were prevalent only in a few districts, while there were sporadic outbreaks of mild influenza, relapsing fever and dengue fever. Malaria in a severe form did not prevail in spite of the heavy rainfall. The systematic and vigorous rat-extermination campaign that has been carried on in Nagpur in recent years has secured to it a degree of immunity from plague which has attracted the attention of other Municipal Committees, several of which have now undertaken

similar campaigns. A welcome feature of the year has been the increasing attention which the problem of infant mortality is receiving at the hands of Municipal Commissions. Local Committees have made arrangements for health-visit by municipal midwives or female assistant medical officers. The maternity and child welfare committee in Nagpur extended its range of operations and has demonstrated its utility by bringing down the death-rate among infants under one month in the area under its charge. The Health Publicity Officers as well as the officers in charge of epidemic dispensaries performed large amount of useful propaganda work, and the former assisted in organizing health weeks and baby shows at Nagpur and at Amraoti.

10. The year 1924 has also been healthy. The annual birth and death-rates calculated on the figures of the first ten months of the year are 44.34 and 32.13 per mille, respectively. The slight rise in the death-rate is due to cholera, which broke out in epidemic form in some parts of the province, and also to plague, which prevailed in some districts. An extensive cholera inoculation campaign which was carried out in Chanda town showed good results. Out of the 4,528 persons inoculated, only 12 were attacked and only six of these died. Small-pox was also more prevalent than in the previous year. The attention of local bodies and the public was drawn to the value of vaccination and re-vaccination as a means of checking the spread of small-pox. A proposal to make vaccination compulsory in rural areas was under the consideration of Government, but it has been left for the consideration of a Minister when one is appointed. There were no other serious epidemics prevalent in the province during the current year. Sand-fly fever of a mild type was reported from Nagpur and Bhandara towns. During the third week of January 1924, a National Baby Week was celebrated with great success in a large number of towns in the province on the initiative of Her Excellency the Countess of Reading, and arrangements for similar celebrations in 1925 are in progress. It is satisfactory to note that these baby weeks bid fair to become annual functions in the towns of the province.

**The Legislative Council.**

11. The predominant note in last year's review was one of optimism, and stress was laid on the tendency shown by the Council towards moderation and concentration upon essentials. The review ended, however, with an apprehensive note in saying that "it must be remembered, however, that the old Council was composed in the main of members of the moderate party, and that their very presence in the Council was a proof that they were prepared to accelerate the working of the new system", and in adding that "a new party pledged to destroy the Council from within is able to command a considerable majority". The promise shown by the last Council has not been fulfilled, and the note of apprehension has been too fully justified.

12. The elections of November 1923 showed that the Swaraj party had departed entirely from its previous policy of aloofness. Canvassing was brisk among the electors and resulted in 54 per cent of the voters coming forward to the polls in contested elections—a figure which, in the light of previous election experience in the province, is remarkably high. Out of the 54 elected seats, 41 were won by avowed Swarajists; nine by Independents, who in the ensuing sessions of Council sometimes voted with the Swarajists; and only four by members who styled themselves Liberals.

13. The newly elected Council met for the first time on the 15th January 1924, and sat for four days. On the first day of the session the Swarajists gave an indication of their attitude by refusing to accept office or to sit on any committee. Accordingly, a Liberal was elected as Deputy President, and Liberals and Independents only were nominated for the Panel of Chairmen and for the Committee on Public Accounts. On the following day the Swaraj party gave an earnest of their declared policy of obstruction and opposed four Government bills on the ground that the Ministers appointed by His Excellency the Governor from among the Liberals and Independents had not the confidence of the House, and, therefore, all measures promoted by them were to be resisted by way of protest. The Swarajists accordingly carried



dilatory motions in regard to three bills and refused leave to introduce a fourth. On the 18th January 1924 they made their attitude perfectly clear by moving a vote of no-confidence in the ministry, which they carried by a majority of 14 to 21. They declared their intention of refusing to allow any member of their party to accept office and of doing everything within their power to prevent the Governor from retaining the services of any one else; and in doing so they professed to be acting constitutionally.

14. The refusal of the Swaraj party to take office compelled His Excellency the Governor to select the Ministers from the minority groups and he appointed as Ministers Mr. S. M. Chitnavis, a member of the Liberal party, and Mr. Syed Hifazat Ali, a Muhammadan Independent; and both these gentlemen were still in office when the Council met for the budget session on the 4th March 1924, when it sat for six days. The first action of the Swarajists in this session was to throw out entirely the three bills promoted by the Ministers, and the one introduced by the Revenue Member. Their rejection of the three bills relating to transferred subjects was described by them as a protest against the unconstitutional conduct of the Ministers in continuing to hold office in spite of the vote of no-confidence previously passed. Their reason for rejecting the Revenue Member's bill in a reserved subject was not given though it was specifically demanded.

15. They then proceeded to reject all the demands made for the current year's budget with the exception of a sum of Rs. 2 which they passed as salaries for the Ministers, thereby making it impossible for His Excellency the Governor to certify or otherwise provide reasonable salaries for them under section 52 (1) of the Government of India Act. Their chief motives for rejecting the budget were to ensure the disappearance of the Ministers and to destroy dyarchy. In this respect they have succeeded, for the Ministers resigned at the close of the session, and during the remainder of the year 1924 the Governor himself has been administering the transferred subjects under the Transferred Subjects (Temporary

Administration) Rules. They have perhaps succeeded to a greater extent than they intended, as the Governor has not summoned the Council to meet again since the budget session.

16. The Swaraj party departed from its policy of obstruction, rejection and refusal to accept office in one important particular. Two of its leading members brought forward certain amendments to the Standing Orders of the Council which are designed to give full scope to the activities of a majority which refuses to accept office. The Select Committee to deal with these amendments is elected on the method of the single transferable vote, and the Swaraj party by putting forward a block of candidates secured strong representation on the committee. The Select Committee, however, was surprisingly reasonable. Of the nine amendments proposed, six were dropped in Committee and the remaining three were adopted without a dissentient minute, but with modifications which afford safeguards for the orderly conduct of business. The Report of the Select Committee has still to be considered by the Council.

17. It must be confessed that the outlook at the end of the year 1921 is not hopeful. It is difficult to see how the Swaraj party can depart from the attitude they adopted at the beginning of the year, though there are indications of a change in policy; if they still persist in refusing to accept office themselves and in preventing others from doing so, there seems to be no course open to Government but to apply to the Secretary of State to have the transferred subjects included among the reserved subjects. Dyarchy for the present does not exist in the province.

#### Finance.

18. An important event in the financial history of the province during the year was the establishment of a financial settlement between the Central Provinces and Berar. In accordance with a resolution passed by the Legislative Council on the 3rd March 1921, a committee was appointed under the Presidency of Mr. Sim of the Finance Department of the Government of India "to submit to the Government a scheme

for a financial settlement between the Central Provinces and Berar, which, while safeguarding the requirements of a single government, would secure that a reasonable share of Berar revenues should be spent for the benefit of Berar." The Committee recommended that, excluding certain heads of central expenditure such as the administration of revenue, Criminal and Civil Law, the collection of taxes, the general executive business of the Government and famine relief, etc., from which the whole province derives benefit, the expenditure should be divided between the Central Provinces and Berar in the same proportion in which they contribute to the revenues, *i.e.*, in the proportion of 3 to 2. This formula is however to be applied subject to certain reservations, the most important being that it should not be applied if it has the result by itself of reducing the fixed recurring expenditure which has been previously sanctioned in any part of the province, or if it involves the stoppage of any original work in progress which has been previously sanctioned. The recommendation was accepted by Government and has been in force with four minor qualifications since 1923-24. The Central Provinces share of ordinary expenditure is already in excess of the proportion recommended by the Committee, and although, by virtue of the reservations to which the settlement is subject, no curtailment in ordinary expenditure can be effected, in order that the proportions might eventually be attained, Government is, as far as possible, allotting new expenditure to Berar. The new divisible expenditure budgetted for in the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 was as follows :—

Budget figures for—				Total new divisible expenditure in thousands of rupees.	Central Provinces	Berar.
1923-24	...	..	..	617	180	437
1924-25	...	.	..	584	174	410

These figures exclude "Grants for general purposes" which, though treated as divisible, represent commitments.

19. The improvement in the finances of the province noted in last year's report continued during the year 1923-24. The budget estimates for that year showed an ordinary opening balance of Rs. 40.71 lakhs, with Rs. 28.27 in the Famine Insurance Fund; although, excluding debt heads and capital expenditure, the expenditure was estimated to be in excess of the revenue by Rs. 14.31 lakhs, on account of large recoveries from loans made in previous years the budgeted closing balance was Rs. 51.24 lakhs, ordinary, and Rs. 69.85 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund. At the time of the introduction of the budget for 1924-25 in the Legislative Council it had become apparent that the position was better than was expected. It appeared from the revised estimates that the year would close with a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs instead of a deficit of Rs. 14.31 lakhs, the result being mainly due to savings under almost all heads. The accumulated free balance at the commencement of the year 1924-25 was therefore estimated to reach Rs. 75.95 lakhs, with Rs. 68.91 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund. The accounts for the year 1923-24 which are now available disclose a state of affairs even more satisfactory than what was anticipated at the time of the introduction of the 1924-25 budget. The actual revenue exceeded the budget figure by Rs. 3.5 lakhs and the expenditure fell short of the estimate by as much as Rs. 33.14 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 22.33 lakhs and the year closed with a free balance of Rs. 101 lakhs in addition to Rs. 72.27 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund.

20. The budget of 1924-25 met with a remarkable fate. The Legislative Council, actuated entirely by political motives, refused its assent, by a majority, to all the votable demands in both the transferred and reserved departments, with the exception of a sum of Rs. 2 which was voted for the salaries of the two Ministers. None of the demands were considered on their merits. His Excellency certified and authorized expenditure for the reserved and transferred departments in accordance with the provisions of section 72-D (2), proviso (a) and (b) of the Government of India Act, and as a result the budget for 1924-25 as finally passed by the local Government

provided for a total revenue of Rs. 531·81 lakhs, an expenditure (chargeable to revenue) of Rs. 521·09 lakhs, and a closing balance of Rs. 181·60 lakhs, including Rs. 111·05 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund. The revised estimates for the current year show an improvement even on these very satisfactory figures; the revenue is likely to exceed the budget figure by Rs. 11·64 lakhs, while the expenditure is expected to exceed the budget figure by Rs. 0·07 lakhs only and the closing balance is estimated to rise to Rs. 228·96 lakhs, out of which Rs. 116·87 lakhs will be free.

21. The province can well congratulate itself on having reached this position of financial security without having to make any serious sacrifices. The improvement that has taken place within the last three years has been remarkable, as will be evident from a comparison of the present position with that at the inauguration of the reforms. The province entered on the reforms with a balance of Rs. 51·03 lakhs, a deficit on revenue account of Rs. 82·15 lakhs and a debt of Rs. 464·02 lakhs. By means of additional taxation and by effecting a retrenchment of approximately Rs. 20 lakhs in the expenditure and aided by three successive good seasons the local Government has not only eliminated a very serious deficit, but converted it into a surplus, and at the same time provided Rs. 15 lakhs annually for objects to which previously funds were not devoted. The ordinary balance has been increased to nearly double of what it was and a Famine Insurance Fund estimated to reach Rs. 112·09 lakhs has been built up. Although between the 1st April 1921 and the 31st March 1924, the province had borrowed Rs. 107·17 lakhs and expended Rs. 58·53 lakhs of loan on capital works, mainly irrigation works, the total indebtedness stood only at Rs. 518·07 lakhs, that is to say Rs. 53·12 lakhs of debt had been repaid during this period, and the uncovered balance of the debt had been reduced from Rs. 321 lakhs to Rs. 282 lakhs. In the current financial year, against a further loan of Rs. 26·50 lakhs, Rs. 28·43 lakhs will be repaid, leaving a debt of Rs. 516·14 lakhs and an uncovered balance of Rs. 246

lakhs. Of this debt Rs. 371·61 lakhs representing the advances received from the Government of India for the construction of irrigation works in the pre-reforms period is not repayable, but carries interest. This striking result has been due to the mutual reaction between the powers of the legislature and the executive that prevailed during the life of the first reformed Council and to the loyal co-operation of the public establishments, no less than to favourable seasons, and provided these three factors are not lacking in the future, the province can with confidence look forward to a period of all round progress and development.

#### Maintenance of Order.

22. The year 1923 was characterized by good harvests, falling prices and a full demand for labour, and the reduction in the volume of crime noticed in the previous year's review continued, the number of reported cases being the lowest since 1916. With the collapse of the non-co-operation movement the spirit of lawlessness and defiance of authority which it had engendered largely disappeared, and relations between the police and the public showed a further improvement. Although the general conditions of the province were peaceful, several local disturbances threw a heavy burden of additional duties on the shoulders of the District Magistrates and the police. The Satyagraha agitation at Nagpur, and to a smaller extent at Jubbulpore, Seoni and Narsinghpur, which disturbed the peace of the province towards the middle of 1923, represented an attempt on the part of a few 'no change' leaders to revive the flagging non-co-operation movement. It received little genuine support in the rest of the province, and the manner in which the agitation terminated was a complete vindication of lawful authority. In the closing quarter of 1923, the province witnessed a recrudescence of sectarian disputes, the inevitable reaction from the spurious Hindu-Muhammadan unity that had bolstered up the non-co-operation movement. The disputes mainly centred round the playing of music before places of worship, and led to minor collisions between the two communities at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. A certain amount of communal friction was also due to the spread of the *Sangathan*

movement. In Berar the activities of Satya-Shodhak organizations encouraged the spread of anti-Brahmin and anti-Marwari feeling. Anti-Marwari propaganda in the Buldana district culminated in violence against the person and property of Marwaris in some villages, where punitive police had to be imposed.

23. The statistics of the year 1924 indicate the possibility of a further decrease in the volume of crime. There has been a lull in political activities, but communal tension has again been acute. Minor incidents occurred at Nagpur and Kamptee in connection with the Ganpati celebrations and the Dusehra processions were the occasion of disturbances at Sangli and Jubbulpore. Troops had to be called out at the latter place and their timely assistance prevented the development of a serious situation. Anti-Brahmin feeling still prevails in Berar, but has not manifested itself in any untoward incidents.

#### **Trade, Industries and Commerce.**

24. The decision of the Government of India to discontinue the publication of statistics of internal trade has caused some difficulty in the preparation of provincial statistics, which are only available for the period from April to December 1923. For this period the total value of exports, of which two-thirds consisted of raw cotton, was Rs. 1,949 lakhs. The total value of the imports was Rs. 1,121 lakhs, the principal articles imported being manufactured cotton (Rs. 157 lakhs), metals (Rs. 138 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 135 lakhs). The excess of exports over imports is characteristic of an agricultural province like the Central Provinces.

25. The number of factories, including those that are registered under section 2 (3) (b) of the Indian Factories Act, rose during the year from 574 to 611. Fines aggregating Rs. 361 were imposed in two cases for neglect to fence machinery and to provide suitable clothing for those who have to attend to moving machinery. Owners and managers of seasonal factories still fail to realize their responsibilities to their employees in these matters. In the factories belonging to the

Empress Mills plant for the extraction of dust from gins has been installed, an innovation calculated to improve the conditions under which the operatives work. Copies of suitable plans have been forwarded to other ginning factories, but it will be some time before the example of the Empress Mills is generally followed. There was no marked variation in the rates of wages. A demand by the workmen for higher wages, followed by disturbances and intimidation of men on duty, ended in the management of the Empress Mills declaring a lock-out for an indefinite period. The lock-out lasted from the end of January to the beginning of April 1924, when the operatives were allowed to resume work unconditionally on the existing terms. Four strikes in all occurred during the period under review, but only one of them was of any importance. This strike occurred at the Bengal-Nagpur Mills at Rajnandgaon in October 1923 and had for its main object the abolition of the shift system then recently introduced. The strike continued till the end of the year.

26. The improved fly-shuttle sley introduced by the Textile Expert is increasing in popularity with the weaving community. The number of sleys sold during the year 1924 is 2,226, including some 1,000 estimated to have been made by local carpenters. The fact that these improved sleys are now being made locally is an indication of their economic utility. In addition, 100 double-box sleys were sold to the weavers, while 50 have been supplied outside the province. The improved warping machine which was introduced last year is gaining ground, 69 machines having been sold so far, 30 during the present year. As no less than 25 of these were copies locally made from the machines supplied by Government, it is evident that the model is one that is well adapted to local requirements.

27. The new Indian Boilers Act came into force on the 1st January 1924, rendering many boilers, hitherto exempt, liable to registration and Government inspection, notably those belonging to the Public Works Department and Municipal Water-works. About 130 new boilers were imported



into the province and surveyed and licensed during the period under report. The provision of the new law relating to boilers to be fitted with steel steam pipes has met with much opposition from owners of boilers whose cast-iron pipes have been in use for many years. The use of cast-iron pipes has, however, been freely allowed as a temporary measure in order to give owners of existing boilers sufficient time to make the necessary alterations. The present inspecting staff of three has been found to be inadequate for carrying out the increasing number of inspections, and sanction has been given to the appointment of an additional Inspector. Of the two electrical companies working in this province, that at Nagpur is extending its usefulness, but that at Khandwa has gone into liquidation owing to financial difficulties. The three schemes for the supply of electrical energy mentioned in last year's report have not yet matured, lack of the necessary capital being the chief obstacle in the way of progress. A scheme on a small scale has been specially sanctioned at Wardha under section 28 of the Electricity Act.

28. There was no change in the number of Government and Government-aided industrial schools in the province. The experiment mentioned in the last year's report of reducing by half the amount of scholarships to newcomers at the Akola School of Handicrafts has not proved successful. The industrial classes at the Victoria Technical Institute at Amraoti have been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Education Department to that of the Industries Department in accordance with recommendation of the Vocational Training Committee. That Committee also recommended the establishment of two new schools with a course of four years, combining technical and general education, but it was decided on the ground of expense to substitute a three years' combined course at the Nagpur school, and a scheme is now being prepared. At Nagpur efforts were made to transfer the boot-making school to private control as the commercial side of the business occupied a disproportionate amount of the Head Master's time, but the negotiations proved abortive and the school was closed down. The construction of the

Leather Training School at Nagpur, which had been postponed on account of financial stringency, was taken in hand, and the school is expected to be ready for occupation by March 1925. The industrial school and mining classes at Chandaineta which were started towards the end of 1923 under the auspices of Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co. are working successfully. The Advisory Board of Industries continued to give valuable assistance and one or two important schemes recommended by it are under the consideration of Government.

#### **Minerals.**

29. Manganese continued to be in brisk demand accompanied by high prices as in the previous year, which led to the working of deposits of low grade ore or ore hard to win which had been abandoned. There was an increase in the number of manganese mines from 147 to 175, and in consequence a substantial increase in the total output of ore. Although the labour supply failed to keep pace with the rapid development of the industry, a great deal of ore which had accumulated at the mines during years of depression was put on the market. The strong demand for manganese brought into prominence the subject of communications with the result that it has been proposed to substitute a broad gauge line for the existing steam tramway from Tumsar to Tirodi, and in other localities tramways are being extended and an aerial ropeway installed.

30. On the other hand, the slump in the coal trade which began last year still continues, and has hit the coal industry in the Central Provinces particularly hard. As the quality of coal is largely poor, it is the first to suffer from any drop in the demand. As a result, although eight new coal mines were opened during 1923, and a good deal of development was carried on in the coal fields, the total raisings were less than those of the previous year by nearly 20 per cent. With the restricted demand on the type of coal produced in the province, it was found necessary to make certain concessions to the industry by way of a temporary reduction in the rate of dead-rent in certain cases, and by securing from the Great

Indian Peninsula Railway Company a reduction in the railway freight on coal. The Ballarpur colliery which was sealed after a fire in 1922 was re-opened in September 1923.

31. The production of limestone increased by over 90 per cent and the value of the production rose by nearly 56 per cent. This increase in the value is an index of the activity of the cement industry during the earlier part of the period under report.

#### Irrigation.

32. The increase in the area irrigated, which was almost equal to the record figure of 1921-22, is due entirely to the increase in the area of rice irrigated under agreement, the area of *rabi* irrigated being less than that of the previous three years. The rains were favourable both for the rice and *rabi* crops and, though large areas of rice will always be irrigated even in years of favourable rainfall, no appreciable area of *rabi* is likely to be irrigated unless the conditions of the *rabi* season are distinctly unfavourable. The revenue realized was slightly less than that of the previous year. This is due entirely to the fact that very heavy arrears were recovered in that year, and the assessment of the year exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1·3 lakhs. Collections were very satisfactory and nearly all arrears have now been collected. The supply from all works in operation was adequate and, during the current year, the Mahanadi Canal has given fair proof of its reliability in a year of unfavourable rainfall. The Muramsilli Reservoir of the Mahanadi Canal project was completed during the year and two of the syphons have since been tested and are reported to have worked satisfactorily. There is room for improvement in the rate of progress secured on works that are under construction. To a considerable extent the slow progress is due to difficulty in securing labour and the inefficiency of the contractors available in the province, but in some cases it is due to lack of foresight in the preparation of estimates and in regard to arrangements for the execution of work. Fair progress was made in the construction of the Kharung project and on a number of other incomplete works, but in certain cases work has been impeded

owing to the necessity for reconsidering the extent and distribution of irrigation under tanks, the construction of which was commenced with insufficient investigation.

33. A programme of construction involving an expenditure of some Rs. 5 crores on the completion of works in progress and the construction of nine new works was approved and arrangements to finance it were made. Work on two of these projects, the Bori tank in the Seoni district and the Maniari project in the Bilaspur district, has been commenced and good progress has been made in the investigation of most of the other works included in the programme.

34. Considerable attention has been paid to maintenance and development. Experiments have been carried out with a view to the introduction of a type of outlet suitable to the conditions of the province, and a scheme for the construction of watercourse has been under consideration. Without suitable outlets and watercourses equality of distribution is impossible and great waste occurs. It will take some years to obtain them under all projects, but as they are introduced, efficiency will be improved and complaints of unequal distribution should gradually cease. The agreement system continues to be popular and, though complaints of high rates are made at times, there is no doubt that the system is the best suited to the conditions of the province.

35. Criticism of the administration of the Mahanadi Canal, which has made itself heard from time to time for several years, came to a head in the shape of articles published in the Press towards the close of the period under report. With the view of acquainting users of the canal water with the limitations imposed by physical conditions, and with the facts which constitute the basis for the design of the project, as well as of affording an opportunity to the people concerned to state the causes of dissatisfaction, the Hon'ble Revenue Member, with the Chief Engineer and local officials, met representative landholders and discussed with them the grievances and the remedies for them. It is hoped that this conference will have important results.

**Forests.**

36. The Forest Department has had another successful year. Increase in the revenue has continued in spite of a bad lac harvest. All other sources of revenue have fully maintained the advance made in 1922-23. This result is particularly gratifying, when it is realized that the aim of the Forest Department throughout the period has been to subordinate considerations of immediate revenue to the sound development for the future of the forest estate of Government.

37. As an instance of this policy, the system of single year leases of coupes and the refusal of all extensions of such leases, the orders for the removal of useless fruit trees and the extension of thinning and cutting back operations aim at the achievement of clean and well-developed forests. On the face of it the reduction of the period of the coupe leases appeared likely to result in the loss of revenue, but this apprehension has proved to be groundless while thinning operations have actually paid and are in fact an integral portion of the revenue making system of a properly conducted forest administration.

38. Communications have been pushed forward with considerable zeal and success, and the influence of the new roads can already be traced in the revenue returns. The construction of roads from loan funds has proved highly successful, and the system of justification before construction of each road by the prospective increase in revenue has ensured that every scheme is properly investigated, and that only such schemes as are really necessary and desirable are proceeded with. The building programme has not developed to the same degree, and a good deal remains to be done to provide accommodation for the staff of the department. Two considerable schemes for facilitating the marketing of forest produce have been developed during the year. The saw-mill sanctioned for Allapilli has recently been brought into working order, and the survey of the line for the light railway to serve the sal forests of the South Raipur division has been sanctioned and will be carried out during the cold weather of 1924-25.

39. With the development of scientific methods of working forests, an increase in trained staff is imperative, and the Standing Committee of the Council approved a scheme to add 16 to the posts of the cadre of the Provincial Forest Service; and these posts are gradually being filled. The process must take some little time, but eventually should provide sufficient gazetted officers for proper control of operations. In addition, as the large number of junior officers in the department acquire more experience, it will be possible to fill up the gaps which exist in the working plans of the provincial forests. Many of the plans are out of date and require revision, while there is a considerable area for which no working-plans have been made. There has been some increase in the subordinate staff and Government is paying attention to the housing of the subordinate ranks. Bad climate allowances are being sanctioned for the men who serve in the more unhealthy tracts, and the question of providing facilities for medical treatment in the Melghat is under consideration.

40. The question of grazing has received a considerable amount of attention during the year, the difficulty being to satisfy the general demands of the public for more and cheap grazing, while at the same time preserving the forests from injury and preventing the destruction of the grass by over-grazing. Some attempt has been made to educate cultivators in the value of early cut hay for fodder crops in areas where land formerly devoted to grazing has been brought under cultivation. These measures should, so far as valuable cattle are concerned, reduce the pressure on the forest grazing areas, but until the owners of cattle realize the uneconomic character of herds containing a large proportion of useless cattle, it will be difficult to make popular any really economic working of the grazing areas. Although the fees charged by Government are only nominal the Standing Committee on Forests has opposed the enhancement of fees on more than one occasion and there is no doubt that this would be a very unpopular measure unless accompanied by a relaxation of restrictions.

41. During an examination of forest offices conducted in 1921 under the orders of the local Government, it was discovered that the system by which forest revenue was collected by means of forest stamps involved a considerable amount of avoidable expense and work. A system has now been evolved for the collection of forest revenue in the Central Provinces approximating to that which has all along been in force in Berar. Revenue from ordinary forest produce will in future be collected by means of rated passes combining in one form both stamp and licence. Grazing revenue will be collected in cash. Advantage has been taken of the introduction of this system to revise generally the rules for the collection of forest revenue.

42. Progress during the year as well as profit has been considerable, and these results must be attributed to better control and more scientific methods. The latter factor has been reinforced by the permanent appointment of a silviculturist and the necessary staff from May 1923.

#### **Local Self-Government.**

43. The chief feature of the year was the holding of the first general elections to the Local Boards and District Councils in the Central Provinces under the Local Self-Government Act, 1920. Save in a few districts the electorates are still not sufficiently alive to their responsibilities, and in some Local Board circles even candidates were not forthcoming; but this apathy of the electorate will, it is hoped, disappear when the position of local bodies under the new Act is more fully appreciated. The new legislation has widely enlarged their powers and curtailed official control and supervision over their internal affairs, while greater facilities for expanding their resources are provided. Action is already being taken under the Act to vest exclusively in the District Councils the right of levying fees and tolls in, and of exercising control over, important markets within their areas. One of the important powers of taxation conferred on them is the power to impose, with the sanction of the Government, an additional cess for the maintenance of schools, and one District Council has already imposed such a cess, of three pies per rupee of the land

revenue. Several District Councils are contemplating the introduction of compulsory education under the Central Provinces Primary Education Act, 1929, and are likely to impose additional school rates on non-agriculturists. Although in the past District Councils have been somewhat reluctant to impose additional taxation, there are indications of a growing recognition on their part of the fact that without additional revenue their activities are bound to be cramped.

44. The Municipalities Act came into force in the Central Provinces on the 1st July 1923, and was applied to Berar on the 15th February 1924. Elections under the new Act are taking place now in about 12 Municipalities and some of them are being fought on political grounds. This tendency to intrude politics into the sphere of Local Self-Government is much to be deprecated, as it is bound to affect the proper discharge by the local bodies of their legitimate work. Improvement is also desirable in the attendance of members of Municipal Committees at meetings. In one important Municipality in Berar 12 out of 17 meetings proved abortive for want of a quorum. The income of Municipal Committees rose by about 10 per cent during the period under review, the rise being due to good agricultural conditions resulting in better collection of arrears and increased receipts from octroi and terminal tax. In the collection of taxes in some Municipalities there is considerable scope for improvement, and some Municipal Committees have been slow to impose new taxation to meet the growing needs of their local areas. If this remains a permanent feature of municipal administration, the wide opportunities of progress which the new Act offers to them will prove infructuous. While some Municipal Committees have begun to devote increased attention to child-welfare and public health and sanitation, in others a tendency to stint expenditure on these matters has been noticed.

45. In accordance with the accepted policy of transferring the financial and administrative control of local fund dispensaries to local bodies, more than half the total number of these institutions have been handed over to Municipal Committees



and District Councils, but it would be premature to pronounce an opinion upon the result of this policy. The experiment of the transfer of the control of public works to District Councils, which was begun during the period under review, has not everywhere been attended with encouraging results. While the management of the roads and buildings that have been transferred has not generally been unsatisfactory, in some instances, instead of fully utilizing the grant on the maintenance of works, District Councils have diverted a part of it to other purposes, and in one District Council the condition of the transferred works was so unsatisfactory that they had to be taken over again by the Public Works Department. It is hoped that the increased independence of local bodies will in course of time foster initiative and a sense of responsibility in the members, but the immediate result of the relaxation of official control and supervision has been a perceptible deterioration in the management of their affairs. The last report of the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts discloses an increasing number of financial irregularities and embezzlements, and unless office-bearers of local bodies exercise strict vigilance, there is a danger that the progress of Local Self Government will receive a check from which recovery will be slow and laborious.

#### Education.

46. The expenditure on education during the year 1923-24 rose from Rs. 85,30,000 to Rs. 88,35,773. The number of pupils under instruction increased from 340,050 to 353,140. This increase, though common to all institutions, was specially noticeable in the primary stage, where a rise of 8,215 in the number of pupils more than made up for the decrease which was noticed last year. One of the features of the period under review is the endeavour which has been made to improve and extend this stage of education. Government has decided that such funds as District Councils possess for expenditure on education should be spent on improving and extending vernacular, especially primary, education. Compulsory primary education has been introduced in Berar in one Municipal area and five villages. Schemes have been submitted for its extension in other Municipalities and

villages, but, with few exceptions, have not yet reached a stage when Government can accord its sanction. In a province where the percentage of literates is still very low, this measure of compulsion, though small and restricted to few places at present, may have far-reaching effects in providing a standard of general literacy which is the necessary basis for all democratic institutions. A bill to facilitate the introduction of compulsion in primary education and its cautious application as a means of achieving general literacy in the province has been held up by the action of the Legislative Council which rejected the bill without discussion at the session of March 1924. An interesting experiment in enlarging the control of local bodies in educational matters is being tried in Amraoti, Balaghat, Bhandara and Hoshangabad, where the Government Deputy Inspectors of Schools have been transferred provisionally to the service of District Councils.

47. The outstanding feature of the year in secondary education has been the bringing into operation of the High School Education Act, which was mentioned in last year's report, by the constitution of the High School Board. The Board has wide powers, which include that of the recognition of High Schools and the prescription of courses of study and text-books for High and Middle Schools. Its composition ensures that all shades of educational and public opinion are represented. On the effects of another interesting feature of this stage of education—the introduction of the vernaculars as media of instruction in High Schools—it is yet too early to express a definite opinion, although the scheme has been in operation for the last two years.

48. In collegiate and university education the principal events of the year were the opening of the King Edward College, Amraoti, and the establishment of the Nagpur University. The King Edward College was opened in July 1923 and will, it is hoped, play an important part in the intellectual development of the province. The Nagpur University was established in August 1923. Its Court, Academic and Executive Councils, Faculties and Boards of Studies have been constituted and have begun to function in accordance with the provisions

of the University Act. The Colleges formerly affiliated to the University of Allahabad have been recognized as institutions admitted to the privilege of the Nagpur University. The problem of providing the University with a suitable building is well on the way to solution, and a convenient site has been selected. The establishment of the University has stimulated interest in educational matters, which has in many cases assumed a practical form.

49. The period under review has been momentous in the educational history of the province. With the formation of the Nagpur University and the Central Provinces Board of High School Education the responsibility for the whole of the education of the province is now in provincial hands. Through these institutions and local bodies public opinion can be brought to bear on all branches of education, and it is hoped that a standard and type of education will be evolved, suited to the needs of the people.

#### **Work of the Agricultural Department.**

50. The period has been one of consolidation upon well established lines of work rather than upon development and extension along new avenues for agricultural improvement. This is largely due to the fact that the Legislative Council, by a majority, refused its assent to all the demands put forward in the departmental budget for 1924-25, and the department was therefore obliged to confine its activities to the maintenance of essential work by the aid of funds allotted by His Excellency the Governor. The demand for the seed of varieties of staple crops recommended by the department is so large that much of the time of the officers of the department is employed in arranging for the propagation and distribution of such seed. The value of this work to the people of the province is very great and the actual increased return obtained by the use of improved varieties of crops has been calculated to cover, several times over, the annual cost of the agricultural department. Considerable attention is being given to the cotton crop and a whole-time officer is working upon the improvement of cotton and of crops grown

in rotation there will be. At present the well known variety, Roseum, still maintains its popularity and some difficulty is experienced in coping with the demand for its seed. A high yielding variety of better quality is, however, desirable and work towards this end is in progress. Attention is also being paid to overcoming the disease known as cotton wilt which is causing considerable loss in certain cotton areas.

51. The demand for an early ripening rice is very marked and the department now has a variety which it is hoped will satisfy that demand. It is a departmental production and has been tested on a fairly large scale with satisfactory results, and arrangements are now being made to propagate the seed on a wider scale. It will form a useful addition to the varieties of established reputation which are already being distributed. The organization for the production of improved wheat seed in the north of the province is large and active and various systems for meeting the needs of the wheat grower are in operation. Varieties of higher yielding capacity are however, required and the general standard of wheat cultivation needs improvement. Work on this crop is to some extent hindered for want of a second Botanist and the appointment of this officer is delayed pending developments in the organization of the agricultural services. The demand for improved agricultural implements has been one of the features of the past year, and of iron ploughs alone, some eight thousand have been sold through the agency and under the supervision of the department. The iron plough is becoming a common agricultural implement in some parts of the country, particularly in Berar, and the organization for its sale is rapidly passing into the hands of private persons, as the stage when the control of Government officers was necessary has been passed. After a good deal of propaganda work an interest in the better feeding and breeding of cattle is being shown by cattle-owners, but the number of bulls fit for the award of a Government premium is limited and only the best can receive such recognition. For the purchase of machinery considerable advantage is taken of the loans issued by Government and particularly is this the case with sugarcane mills and small

power plants for working cotton gins, pumps and similar equipment. Agricultural education has received attention during the year and one important advance has been made in the matter of affiliating the Agricultural College to the Nagpur University. The necessary conditions for affiliation have been laid down by the University and these the authorities of the Agricultural College have found it possible to meet. It is hoped therefore that a degree in Agricultural Science will shortly be available to the residents of the province in their own University. Such a possibility should widen the scope of the University and attract better educated men towards an agricultural career. It should also meet the needs of those who, while desiring to retain their connection with the land, wish also to attain for themselves the distinction conferred by a University degree. The lines upon which elementary agricultural education should be developed are still undetermined, but efforts are being made to solve the problem. It has been decided that one of the agricultural schools shall be closed, but the Hoshangabad school, which appears to be meeting a public need and receiving popular approval, will remain open for the present. The educational work of the department ranges from the training of Kamdars in practical agriculture on farms to the standard of a University degree in Agricultural Science and should be wide enough to meet the needs of all who desire to share in the agricultural improvement of the country.

#### **Co-operative Credit.**

52. The favourable agricultural conditions of the year 1923-24 have further strengthened the financial position of the Co-operative movement. With one or two exceptions, all Central Banks now hold sufficient fluid resource as cover for their deposits, and the cash credit of Rs. 17 lakhs arranged by Government in the financial crisis of 1920-21 with the Imperial Bank of India was finally withdrawn at the end of March 1924. The reserve funds of banks and societies have risen from Rs. 22,55,691 to Rs. 26,47,980. In spite of the reduction in the rates of interest offered, deposits have increased in many Central Banks, and the Provincial Bank, as the co-ordinating agency, therefore, holds a large surplus of about

Rs. 21 lakhs, which has to be invested outside the movement, and the problem of finding useful investment within the movement for the surplus resources still awaits solution.

53. In spite of financial stability, however, the movement shows little sign of recovering its vitality. The condition of primary societies has not improved substantially and continues to cause grave anxiety, particularly in the Central Provinces. Although recoveries were the highest on record during the last six years and the indebtedness of members to societies was reduced by nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, the percentage of overdues to total outstanding has reached the alarming figure of 71·4 in the Central Provinces, and even in Berar is as high as 31·7. Cash advances rose by over Rs. 50,000 but almost the whole of the increase was accounted for in Berar, the revival of a demand for fresh loans being inappreciable in the Central Provinces, and there is little doubt that the outside liabilities of members are increasing in several districts. Solvent members have begun to withdraw from societies after discharging their debts. The total number of societies declined from 4,858 to 4,646 and only 67 new societies were registered. 653 Societies were under award and 254 in liquidation, and of the Central Provinces societies no less than one-third exist merely for the repayment of old debts. Including the overdues, Rs. 52,87,365 and Rs. 36,33,901 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively, fall due during the next year, and on an examination of the figures of collection in the past, it is evident that this sum cannot, even if no further advances are made, be paid by societies in less than three years.

54. These figures disclose a very serious situation and the urgent need of thorough and systematic reorganization of societies is manifest. In order to secure punctuality in the repayment of debts—an essential element of success—instalments will have to be refixed on a consideration of the paying capacity of members in a normal year and it should not be forgotten that a sufficient margin should also be left for the repayments of future loans with which the societies should be financed. At the same time, the payment of new instalments should

be strictly enforced by societies, and by Central Banks in the case of societies, violation being invariably followed by an award. Renewal should be based only on proof of genuine inability to pay, and no excuse or any other cause to pay installments. Idle, inefficient and dishonest members should be weeded out, and the loans outstanding against them have to be collected. No reorganization can be successful unless it is accompanied by the education of members in the main principles of co-operation, and it is in this respect that the two newly formed institutes, one for Berar and the other for the Jabalpur and Nerbudda divisions, can render valuable services by inculcating in the minds of members a knowledge of the conditions which go to make a rural credit society successful. It is not to be expected that these methods of reorganization will succeed in revitalizing all societies; in fact they will undoubtedly lead to an immediate contraction in numbers, but the substitution of a few sound societies for a large number of bad ones is a necessity if the movement is to be restored to health. Happily, the Directors of Central Banks are now thoroughly alive to the necessity for remedial measures and the attitude of the public is sympathetic and cordial. There is no reason, therefore, provided that sufficient workers are found to tackle the problem of reorganization, why co-operative credit should not in time come to take its proper place in the rural economy of this province.

#### Excise.

55. The excise year was altered with effect from the 1st of January 1923, so as to coincide not, as previously, with the financial but with the calendar year. Statistics relating to the whole of the period covered by this report are not available, but the general tendency of excise administration from April 1923 to December 1924 can be clearly defined. The old policy of "maximum revenue and minimum consumption" which held the field for so many years has now required modification in view of Government's acceptance of prohibition as its ultimate goal in the case of all intoxicating liquors. The new policy is directed to the maximum restriction on consumption consistent with adequate control. In accordance

with this new definition of the aims of the local excise administration a further tightening of existing restrictions on liquor consumption was effected. The incidence of direct taxation was raised from Rs. 11-4-4 per proof gallon of country spirit in 1922 to Rs. 11-9-6 in 1923. The volume of spirit issued at a higher strength than 60° under proof was reduced from 41,000 proof gallons in 1922 to 24,000 proof gallons in 1923. The number of shops in the province was reduced by 57, and the system of maintaining shops for the exclusive sale of spirit in sealed bottles has been encouraged. The figures of consumption for 1923 show, therefore, a slight decline as compared with those of 1922. The figure for 1923 was 451,719 proof gallons, which is the lowest recorded in the department since the introduction of the Central supply system from Madras in 1905-06 made it possible to obtain statistics of actual consumption. Although this result is satisfactory, the very willingness with which the Excise Department has given effect to the views of the Legislative Council in favour of stringent restrictions on consumption has inevitably led to a large increase in the number of illicit distillation cases; and the high figure reported in 1923 is likely to be equalled in 1924. The fact, noted last year, that the views of the Council on the evils of liquor intoxicants receive little or no support from among those classes of the people who are accustomed to take them, is one which Government cannot disregard. A halt has had to be called in some of the more backward parts of the province where the forest tribes form an important element in the population, as it is realized that it is futile to attempt by enhancing prices to restrict consumption in areas where there are no adequate means of controlling illicit distillation.

56. Although educated Indian public opinion, as reflected in the Legislative Council, in no way extends to dry intoxicants the same condemnation which it applies to liquor, the local Government has been compelled to take steps to enhance restrictions on the sale of drugs *pari passu* with restrictions on the sale of spirit. The issue price of opium was raised in 1923 from Rs. 63 to 70 per seer in certain districts and to Rs. 72 in 1924. It will rise to Rs. 75 over the whole province from



the 1st January 1925, when Rs. 5 will also be added to the *ganja* duty. The consumption of *ganja* fell from 29,320 seers in 1921-22 to 27,118 seers in 1923. That of opium rose slightly, but is expected to fall again owing to the further enhancements of duty in 1924 and 1925.

57. It should be noted that the total excise revenue has, throughout the period of enhanced restrictions, remained remarkably steady. It amounted to Rs. 1,25,74,984 in 1922-23 to Rs. 1,30,73,000 in 1923-24 and is likely to rise substantially above this latter figure in 1924-25. A series of good monsoons is, of course, responsible for this state of affairs, and it is to be hoped that the new restrictive policy will have been successfully stabilized before it is put to the test of unfavourable economic conditions.

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## PART II.

### DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

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#### CHAPTER I

##### POLITICAL AND GENERAL.

In Volume II of the Administration Report for 1921-22 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

**1.—Physical Features, Climate and Products.**

**2.—Historical Summary.**

**3.—The Constitution.**

**4.—Organization of Public Services and Departments.**

**5.—Character of Land Tenures and System of Survey and Settlement.**

**6.—Civil Divisions of British Territory.**

**7.—Details of the Last Census.**

**8.—Composition of the local Government, 1923-24.**

2. His Excellency Sir F. G. Sly, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., retained charge of his office as Governor throughout the year, as did the Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Standen, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Sir M. V. Joshi, Kt., of the offices of Members of the Executive Council. There was a change in the Ministry. Mr. S. M. Chitnavis, I.S.O., and Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar continued to hold the offices of Ministers up to the 27th March 1924 and the 10th December 1923, respectively. The latter resigned on being unseated in the election to the new Legislative Council, and Mr. Hifazat Ali was appointed a Minister in his place. Both Mr. S. M. Chitnavis and Mr. Hifazat Ali were subsequently obliged to resign their appointments as Ministers, with effect from the 27th March 1924, owing to the refusal of the Legislative Council to vote adequate salaries for them. On their resignation

the administration of the transferred departments was assumed by His Excellency the Governor under the Transferred Subjects (Temporary Administration) Rules.

### D.—Relations with Federatory States.

[Report of the Administration of the Federatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1923-24.]

#### General.

3. During the year a third son by his second marriage was born to Maharaj Ramnaraj Saran Singh Deo, C.B.E., Ruling Chief of Surguja. The year was one of misfortune for the Chaugbhakar State, as the Ruling Chief, Bhairya Mahabir Singh Deo, was afflicted by the loss of his mother in January, of a grand daughter in April and of his only son and heir-apparent, the Jubraj Sahib, in May. Owing to serious mal-administration, the Jashpur State was taken under the direct administration of Government, and the powers of the Ruling Chief, Raja Bahadur Bishun Prasad Singh Deo, were withdrawn. The heir-apparent, Jubraj Deo Saran Singh Deo, was ordered to leave the State, and Lal Beni Madho Nath, a nephew of the Ruling Chief, was expelled. The addition of Jashpur brought up the number of States under the direct administration of Government to seven, the other States being Bastar, Raigarh, Kawardha, Khairagarh and Nandgaon.

#### Rainfall and crops.

4. The rainfall was sufficiently well distributed in all the States except Kanker, where the *kharif* crops suffered slightly from insufficient rain in October, and Bastar, where there was a partial failure of crops. Elsewhere both the *kharif* and the *rabi* crops were satisfactory and in some cases bumper harvests were reaped.

#### Trade and commerce.

5. There was little or no change in the volume of trade during the year. In the Jashpur State trade was brisk on account of the removal of the export duty on grain. In the Raigarh State a rice and flour mill was opened by some merchants of Raigarh town. There was a considerable improvement in the value of imports in the Khairagarh and Nandgaon States, particularly in the latter, where it rose by nearly Rs. 21½ lakhs. A strike occurred in October 1923 at the Bengal-Nagpur Mills, Rajnandgaon, the main object of which was the abolition of the shift system then recently introduced. It was unattended by any untoward incidents and terminated in January 1924 after protracted negotiations. In spite of the strike, there was a slight increase in the production of yarn and cloth at the mills.

6. The year 1921 was a year of peace and the States were free from epidemic diseases. In Jashpur State, where cholera broke out in the first half of the year, it was checked by means of timely measures. The general condition of the people was satisfactory. Prices of food-stuffs remained practically stationary in most of the States. Employment was ample and wages remained high in most of the States. In Jashpur State, where they were high for the first five years owing to a large number of people being employed by the State on Public Works. In the Makrai State there was considerable mortality among cattle from foot-and-mouth disease andinderpest.

Condition  
of the  
people.

7. The financial condition of all the States was sound. Finance. The Kawardha State repaid during the year the loans taken from the Nandgaon and Raigarh States in 1921, and now has a reserve balance of Rs. 1,06,000.

8. The land revenue continued to increase in nine States and increased in six. There was a large increase in Sirguja, Makrai, Chhuikhadan, Bastar and Jashpur. The highest standing balance being in the Makrai State. There was a decrease in the area under cultivation in the Nandgaon State while in Sarangarh, Kawardha and Sakti there was an increase.

Land  
Revenue.

9. In the Sirguja State a summary settlement was made in three *tappas*. Settlement operations in the Nandgaon State were completed, and a revised *wajib-ul-uzri* was sanctioned by the local Government. In Sarangarh the settlement was under revision. Settlement operations were in progress in the Bastar and Raigarh States and begun in the Jashpur State. A boundary dispute between the Kawardha and Khairagarh States was settled during the year, but there are several disputes between two States or between a State and khalsa territory which are still awaiting settlement.

Settlement.

10. The number of complaints filed in criminal courts increased in six States and decreased in the others. The number of offences reported to the police showed an appreciable increase in five States only, and there was a marked decrease again in the Sirguja, Khairagarh and Nandgaon States. The number of criminal courts increased by one in the Sakti State, and decreased by two in the Bastar State and by one each in the Sarangarh, Jashpur and Raigarh States. The number of civil courts increased by one in the

Criminal  
Law and  
Justice.

Sakti State, and decreased by one each in the Kanker, Sarangarh and Raigarh States, and by three in the Bastar State. The number of civil suits that were tried increased in seven States and decreased in the others, though in some the decrease was very slight.

**Jails.** 11. Admissions to jails increased in six States, the largest increase occurring in the Bastar State. There were 46 deaths in jails, the heaviest mortality being in the Jashpur State jail, which was responsible for 30 deaths from an epidemic of dysentery. On the whole, the health of the prisoners was satisfactory. There were 14 escapes from the jails, 11 of which were from the Jashpur State jail. The manufacture of cloth and police uniforms was undertaken with great success in the Raigarh State.

**Forests** 12. The income from forests increased in eight States, the most marked increase occurring in the Chhuikhadan and the Korea States. In the latter the income more than doubled owing to a considerable increase under lac monopolies. The most noticeable fall in income was in the Udaipur State and was due to no royalty being credited for manufactured sleepers.

**Excise.** 13. Almost all the States derived an increased revenue from excise, there being a fall only in the Sirguja and Khairagarh States. The increase in revenue in the Changbhakar State, where it was more than doubled, was due to the introduction of opium and ganja shops, and in the Bastar State the increase is attributed to a good mohua crop. The smuggling of Baluchar ganja into the Sarangarh State still continues and some illicit distillation consequent on the introduction of weaker liquor is suspected. The total number of prosecutions under the Excise Act fell from 78 to 68, of which 62 were in the Raigarh State alone.

**Education.** 14. Expenditure on education increased in nine States, decreased in five and remained the same in one. The total expenditure for all the States was Rs. 2,63,322 as against Rs. 2,52,291 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly noticeable in the Kanker, Khairagarh and Nandgaon States. There was very little variation in the number of pupils as compared with last year, but there was a fall of almost 400 each in the Sirguja and Sarangarh States due to a reduction in the number of schools. Education remained free in Kanker

and Sirgaja. A number of boys and girls belonging to the depressed classes received instruction in Sarangarh, Sakti, Raigarh, Kawardha, Khairagarh and Nandgaon. The Sarangarh State granted several scholarships to encourage technical and professional education.

15. Expenditure on public works rose to Rs. 1,84,714 to Rs. 5,51,636. Six States increased their expenditure, the rise being most marked in the Sarangarh, Raigarh and Korea States. No new works were undertaken except in the Sarangarh, Bastar, Raigarh and Korea States **Public Works.**

#### 10 - Condition of the people.

Season and crop report for the year ending the 31st May, 1924

16. The monsoon of 1923 was late in arrival, having been preceded by hot and sultry weather in the first half of June and light showers in the second. Rainfall was general throughout the province in July. Heavy and continuous rain in August slightly damaged the crops in parts of certain districts and hampered weeding operations, and the need of a break with bright sunshine was felt everywhere to avoid deterioration and to stimulate growth. This much needed break set in at the beginning of September, when weeding, transplantation of rice and ploughing of fields for *rabi* sowings were resumed, but it did not last long. After the first week of September wet weather set in again, with excessive rainfall, but there were some opportune breaks which allowed the weeding of autumn crops and the ploughing of fields for *rabi* sowing to be carried out. Thus, while the monsoon gave too much rain for much of the cotton and juar country, where the heavier soils suffered, it was beneficial to the rice crop. Fine weather over most of the province during the latter half of September improved the condition of the cotton crop, but where the rain had been continuous the crop failed in the richest soils and was ploughed up to make room for *rabi*. Good rain during the last week of October in Chhattisgarh benefitted the rice crop considerably and helped the *rabi* sowings, but elsewhere rain held off and the weather was clear and sunny with occasional clouds. The months of November and December were practically dry; the weather was more cloudy than usual and there was a marked absence of dew. In Berar there were serious complaints of wilt. During the first week of January there was light rain everywhere which benefitted the *rabi* crops in some districts, but in others was either too late or was accompanied by hail which

caused some damage. No rain was received in February, although the weather was cloudy, and there was consequently some damage by insects and insects. Light showers fell in several districts in March, April and May.

17. The meteorological conditions of the year were generally favourable to *rabi*, but were not so suitable to *kharif*, and for the Central Provinces and Berar taken together the outturn, as given by district officers, stood at 93 per cent of the average yield, against 101 in 1922-23; but the figures of the cotton markets showed that the forecast for that crop was on the low side. The condition of landholding classes and labourers was generally satisfactory. Agricultural labourers had ample employment and commanded fairly high wages. Among the staple food-grains, the prices of *kharif* crops ruled somewhat high, while those of *rabi* fell slightly. Public health was generally good, although plague and cholera were prevalent in parts of some districts. The wholesale price of juar rose by 20 per cent and that of rice remained almost stationary, but that of wheat and gram fell by four and eight per cent, respectively. The prices of cotton and til rose by 35 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. Fodder was generally sufficient except in a few districts during April and the beginning of May. Water was scarce in the hilly parts of Chhindwara and Raipur and in parts of three districts of Berar during the month of May. The generally favourable conditions of the year led to an all-round increase in the number of live-stock. The condition of cattle was good, and although rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and anthrax occurred in a sporadic form in several districts they caused no serious mortality.

## CHAPTER II.

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

#### I.—Realization of Revenue.

[Reports on the Revenue Administration and on the operation of the Land Records and Settlement Department of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1923 and of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1923.]

18. The total land revenue demand rose from Rs. 2,02,50,384 to Rs. 2,03,00,320 on the 1st October 1923. The increase was chiefly due, in the case of the Central Provinces, to progressive assessments in the Seoni district, the re-settlement in certain zamindari of the Drug and Raipur districts and the conversion of shares in certain zamindari villages into malguzari land in Balagnat; in the case of Berar, it was due to the enhanced rate of assessment for agricultural land appropriated to non-agricultural purposes and to the leasing of H. class land for cultivation in the Yeatmal district. Demand remissions and suspensions. Remissions reduced the demand by Rs. 4,206, and the total collections amounted to Rs. 2,02,39,480, inclusive of Rs. 11,230 representing advance collections from the previous year adjusted during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 6,698 for realization. Of the arrear demand of Rs. 11,09,364, Rs. 15,917 was remitted, Rs. 1,16,847 suspended and Rs. 9,73,996 collected leaving a balance of Rs. 1,19,451.

19. As was to be expected in a year of good harvests, Coercive processes for the collection of land revenue fell in number being only 9,168 as against 13,773 in the previous year. Of the 7,051 warrants of attachment and of arrest issued, a very insignificant number, i.e., 41 in all, were actually executed, and only three persons were imprisoned for default.

20. The total amount (including interest) outstanding at the commencement of the year 1922-23 was Rs. 72,01,498. Government loans. Owing to the prosperous circumstances of the year the amount advanced declined from Rs. 11,76,013 to Rs. 5,25,169. Interest falling due during the year amounted to Rs. 4,11,594 as



against Rs. 6,67,436 in the previous year. Of the outstanding debts, Rs. 40,16,028 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 8,98,522, of which Rs. 8,11,834 was overdue. A few instances of the misapplication of land improvement loans were brought to light in the Saugor district, and the borrowers were suitably dealt with.

Jaglia and  
maharki  
cess.

21. During the year a new cess to provide for the remuneration of jaglias and village mahars, in substitution of the old jaglia and local cess, was levied on agriculturists in Berar under section 159 (as revised) of the Berar Land Revenue Code. Lands in alienated villages, as well as non-agricultural incomes in rural areas were assessed to this cess, the introduction of which was the outcome of a popular agitation against the old *baluta* system prevailing in Berar for many years past.

## 2.—Surveys.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1923 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1923]

22. The survey staff conducted traverse operations in 334 villages and sub-traverses in 242 for regular work, and 235 sub-traverses for nazul work in the Central Provinces. In Berar no survey work was actually in progress but a start was made in the Malkapur and Nandura towns of the Buldana district.

## 3.—Settlement.

[*Ibidem.*]

23. Regular settlement operations were in progress in the Chanda, Raipur and Drug zamindaris, and arrangements were made to start operations in the Narsinghpur district. Settlement operations in the zamindaris of the first three districts were carried out on the simplified system indicated in last year's report. Operations in Chanda West were finally closed in July 1923. Map correction preparatory to attestation was in progress in certain villages of the Chanda, Raipur and Drug zamindaris. In Berar the Settlement Officer, Mr. Greenfield had prepared a valuable report on the methods to be adopted in the coming round of settlements, and his proposals were applied and tested in the Khamgaon and Malkapur taluqs of the Buldana district.

## 4. Land Records.

*Table 1.*

24. The simplifications in land record work already introduced tentatively in the year 1921-22 were considered and finally accepted by the local Government. The *majmu' rasid bahin* which had been discontinued in four divisions and the second copy of *jamabandi* which had been discontinued outside Chhattisgarh were finally abolished. Even in Chhattisgarh it was found more economical and expedient to prepare one complete *jamabandi* annually than to continue the two abridged ones in force there. To prevent fraudulent alterations in the *jamabandi* the *patwari* is now required to prepare a simple list of changes in duplicate, one copy to be filed in the *tahsil* in June and the other to be kept with him for check by the Revenue Inspector. The *Panchsala khasra* was made universal and orders for the preparation of a proper roster for re-writing were issued. The form has been re-spaced so as to economize paper. Simplicity and economy in *jamabandi* forms is being tried. These combined with other minor changes such as the discontinuance of certain unnecessary returns, should result in a great saving of time to the *patwaris* and should help towards the smooth working of enlarged *patwari* circles when they are introduced generally. No important change was introduced in the system of land records in Berar.

25. The boundary marks in the Central Provinces were generally in good condition. *Mukaddams* who were guilty of the neglect of duty in respect of the maintenance and repair of these marks were suitably punished. The application of the revised procedure in regard to boundary marks was reported to have led to some improvement in the Akola and Yeotmal districts and it is expected that as the new rules become more widely known, the improvement will be general. The Berar system of boundary marks is considered to be unnecessarily complicated and, as a first step towards simplification, the Bombay system of single boundary marks is being tested tentatively in one selected village of each of the Berar districts.

26. The testing of village papers by the Land Records staff was generally satisfactory.

27. There has been a further decrease in the number of punishments inflicted on *patwaris* in Berar, but an increase in

Land Records establishment.

Boundary marks.

Testing of village papers.

Conduct of Land Records staff.

the Central Provinces as compared with the previous year's figures. The latter is ascribed to the uncertainty among the staff in regard to the reduction in the number of patwaris which would follow on the introduction of enlarged patwaris' circle. With the introduction of this scheme, however, the staff will be better paid, the level of intelligence should be higher and discipline easier to maintain. The work and conduct of Revenue Inspectors continued to be generally satisfactory.

#### 5. - Waste lands

[Report on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1937]

28. The total occupied area in the Central Provinces rose from 1,073,845 acres to 1,074,754 acres, and satisfactory progress was made in the allotment of survey numbers, the area given out having increased from 51,659 acres in the previous year to 68,702; the increase was most marked in the Chanda and Seoni districts. The area available for allotment was thus reduced from 341,622 acres to 330,402, with an average assessment of 3 annas 8 pies.

#### 6. - Government estates.

29. There are no Government estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

#### 7. - Wards' estates.

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1937.]

Number of  
estates  
under  
manage-  
ment.

30. At the beginning of the year there were 44 estates under the management of the Court of Wards, of which ten were released during the year and handed over, not only free of debt but with their annual income increased and their resources strengthened. No new estate was taken under management.

Income.

31. The total gross ordinary income of the 34 estates that remained under management rose from Rs. 12,29,051 to Rs. 12,55,564. Excluding suspensions and remissions the total current rental demand was Rs. 5,70,070 as compared with Rs. 5,46,629 in the previous year, while the arrears demand amounted to Rs. 1,95,200. The total demand for collection was thus Rs. 7,65,270, of which Rs. 6,17,398 was collected. The forest income rose from Rs. 2,62,922 to Rs. 2,93,483, or by 12 per cent, and the increase was shared

by all the divisions. The increase was mainly due to the introduction of working-plans in some of the estates and to the departmental exploitation of lac in the estates in the Jubbulpore district. There is still ample scope for the systematic management of estate forests and the Chief Conservator of Forests has drawn up simple instructions for the guidance of Deputy Commissioners on the best methods of forest management.

32. The total ordinary expenditure, excluding investments and the repayment of debts, amounted to Rs. 10,27,034 against an income of Rs. 12,55,564. The actual expenditure increased by about Rs. 1¼ lakhs and the cost of management rose from 17 per cent to 18 per cent of the gross income, the slight increase being due to larger contributions having been paid to Government on the increased assets of the previous year. Expenditure.

33. The total liabilities of the 12 encumbered estates under management at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 1,07,927 and additional debts to the extent of only Rs. 607 were incurred during the year. Towards the redemption of this amount Rs. 33,325 was paid out of the current income and Rs. 6,583 from the sale proceeds of two of the villages of the Mohta estate in the Betul district. The total liabilities were thus reduced to Rs. 68,626 and four estates were entirely freed from debt. Debts.

34. The year, like its predecessor, was one of agricultural prosperity, and relations with the tenants continued to be cordial, except in the Raipur district where certain local officials were found guilty of exacting *rasad* and *begar* free of charge and of general want of consideration for the tenants. Confidence has, however, been restored in the Raipur estates by measures taken to punish the offenders. Taccavi loans in cash and grain were given in all the estates where there was a demand for them, except in the Bhandara district, where the estates could not afford to advance any loan. A sum of Rs. 1,13,452 was invested in estate improvements against Rs. 81,974 in the previous year. The non-official advisory committees to the Court of Wards to which reference was made in last year's report proved themselves useful and the members are reported to have given considerable help in advising on social and ceremonial matters. The profits of home-farm cultivation varied largely both among General.

estates and divisions. Much useful assistance was given by the Agricultural Department in the management of home-farm cultivation. The education and up-bringing of wards and their training in the management of their own affairs received careful attention, and the progress and conduct of most of the wards were satisfactory. Of the younger wards of school going age, twelve are being educated at the Rajkumar College at Raipur and eight at other institutions.

### 8.—Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1923, and of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1923.]

General conditions.

35. The conditions of the year 1922-23 in the Central Provinces were even more favourable than those of the year 1921-22, and this second good season in succession almost obliterated any remaining effects of the preceding bad years. The rainfall was well distributed, the average for the year being little short of the 55 years' average of 48·38 inches, and the outturn of both *kharif* and *rabi* crops was good, that of *rabi* being the best for several decades in the Jubbulpore Division. The outturn of cotton and juar for those parts of the province where they form the principal crops was estimated at 12 to 16 annas, and that of wheat, linseed and gram at 14 to 20 annas. Kodon and kutki, which form the staple food of the hill tribes, gave a yield of 15 annas, while rice was returned as normal. In the cotton tract a good crop of the principle staple was sold at high prices, and the agricultural population attained a level of prosperity never reached before.

In Berar the year was somewhat unfavourable both to the health of the population and to the crops. The rainfall averaged 35·60 inches against 32·42, the average for 29 years, and untimely rains in October and November did considerable damage to the cotton and juar crops. The high price of cotton and a fall in the price of food-grains, however, prevented any deterioration in economic conditions which might otherwise have resulted from the moderate outturn of cotton in some parts of the division. An exceptionally heavy expenditure on marriages testified to the possession of plenty of ready cash by the cultivating classes, and this was also exemplified by the weak demand for taccavi.

Relations between the people and Government.

36. During the flag agitation a certain amount of spurious feeling was excited against Government, but as non-co-operation had ceased and there was no real grievance, it speedily died down and the mass of cultivators returned to their former

attitude to the Government, from which they have long learnt to expect fair treatment. In isolated villages, usually where the malguzar was a non-co-operator, some ill-will was shown to Government officers, but the relations between officers and the people were generally good. In Berar there was a similar restoration of cordial relations between Government officers and the people; but the agitation of 1921 has left its mark there in the shape of a greater sense of independence in all classes of the people. Darbars were held in the majority of districts and were almost uniformly successful and well attended in spite of attempts by non-co-operators to discredit them.

37. The total rental demand rose from Rs. 1,61,12,335 <sup>Tenants.</sup> to Rs. 1,62,06,317. The area held by tenants decreased by 16,624 acres and the average rental per acre rose from Re. 0-15-3 to Re. 0-15-5.

38. The area of *sir* land decreased by 10,810 acres, but <sup>Landlords.</sup> that of *khudkasht* increased by 25,146 acres.

39. The relations between landlords and tenants showed <sup>Landlords and tenants.</sup> no marked change. There was the usual crop of disputes over claims for nistar, grazing rights and the cultivation of waste land by malguzars, which must always arise under a proprietary system. There are indications that tenants are realizing their rights and privileges to an increasing degree and are no longer deterred by fear of the malguzars from enforcing them. Malguzars generally, however, are failing to move with the times and to demonstrate the value of the present system as a medium for the improvement of agricultural conditions.

## CHAPTER III.

### PROTECTION

#### 1.—Course of Legislation

Legislative  
Council.

40. The Council elected under the Government of India Act at the end of the year 1920 continued in office till it was dissolved by His Excellency the Governor on the 1st November 1923 towards the expiry of its three-year term. The second general election to the Central Provinces Legislative Council was completed in December 1923 and the new Council met in January 1924. During the year under report no bye-election took place, but three new members were nominated to fill vacancies. One expert member was also nominated for the passage of the Central Provinces Settlement Bill.

Legislation.

41. During the year the old Council met once only, for eight days; and the new Council met twice, for ten days in all. In August 1923 the reports of Select Committees on the Central Provinces Land Revenue (Amendment) and the Central Provinces Tenancy (Amendment) Bills were presented to the Council and the Central Provinces Laws (Amendment) Bill was introduced; all these three Bills were passed into law. In the same session the Central Provinces Courts (Amendment) Bill was introduced, referred to a Select Committee and ultimately passed into law; and the motion for the circulation of the Central Provinces Settlement Bill for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon was passed by the Council. No progress was made in legislation in the newly elected Council, as the Swaraj party and some of the Independent members forming a strong majority, adopted obstructive tactics intended to bring the dyarchic form of Government to a standstill. Thus in January 1924 the Cattle Trespass (Central Provinces Amendment) Bill was rejected; and dilatory motions delaying the consideration of Central Provinces Settlement, the Central Provinces Primary Education (Amendment), the Central Provinces Madak-smoking and the Central Provinces Weights and Measures Bills were passed. Ultimately, the last three Bills and the Central Provinces Tenancy (Amendment) Bill were rejected by the Council in March 1924.

## 2.—Police

Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1922, Vol. IV of the Statistical Abstract.

42. The favourable conditions of 1922 were maintained during the year, and good harvests, falling prices and a further decline of political agitation resulted in a fall of five per cent in the total number of offences recorded. The restoration of the old friendly relations between the police and the public was almost complete, although the slowness of the growth of a public opinion which will range itself on the side of the police against the criminal still handicaps investigation. The peace of the province was seriously disturbed on only two occasions, firstly, by the Satyagraha flag movement in Nagpur, and, secondly, by the communal troubles which broke out in Nagpur during the closing quarter of the year. The intensive policy adopted by the Excise Department in the attainment of the goal of prohibition resulted in several riots, numerous assaults on the police and excise staff, and an alarming spread in illicit distillation. Crime, generally

43. The number of offences against the State fell from 528 to 502. Rioting cases decreased from 326 to 298, and at the same time convictions increased from 111 to 150. The number of murders was 251, slightly exceeding the figure of 1922, and convictions were obtained in 100 cases. A further decline in the number of dacoities took place, the figure falling from 121 to 81, but only nine ended in conviction. The low figures of Saugor (13) and Damoh (4) reflect the excellent work done to co-ordinate the activities of the police of those districts with those of the police forces of the Central India States which march with the northern border. While the number of house-breakings fell by 14 per cent only 13 per cent of the cases investigated ended in convictions. The rapidity with which stolen property can be disposed of makes the detection of this class of offences very difficult. Several notorious gangs in Berar were, however, brought to book. The number of thefts slightly declined and a serious effort was made to tackle the problem of juvenile crime in Nagpur. Offences against the State, the person and property

44. Police officers are now fully alive to the advantages of a free use of the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, action under which was slightly more extensive than in 1922. The Criminal Investigation Department, which had a busy and successful year, took up 35 new cases. Some very intricate forgery cases at Nagpur were detected through Police action.



its efforts, and the principal accused was convicted and sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. The work of the Finger-print Bureau expanded still further, the number of slips on record increasing from 85,162 to 90,237. Of the 15 students of the Police Officers' Training School, 38, including nine State candidates, passed the final examination, and of the 25 who finally obtained appointments as Sub Inspectors, 22 were residents of the province.

**Rural and  
punitive  
police.**

45. The imposition of punitive police was only found necessary in two cases. For their imposition at Shirala in the Amraoti district communal disturbances were responsible, while in the case of several villages in the Jalgaon taluq of the Buldana district punitive police were necessitated by an outbreak of lawlessness encouraged by the spread of the Satva Shodhak doctrines.

**Establish-  
ments.**

46. The examination of the superior staff of the department suggested by the Retrenchment Committee resulted in the abolition of one post of District Superintendent of Police in the Home Secretary's office. The force was reduced by four Circle Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector and 31 Sowars during the year. Additionally there was an increase of one Head Constable and four Constables for a Bank Guard at Yeotmal, and of one Head Constable and 34 Constables variously distributed.

**Miscel-  
laneous.**

47. Three officers and 130 men were dismissed during the year, 66 officers and 388 men were punished departmentally, and 28 men were punished judicially. The discipline of the force as judged by the number of dismissals and punishments showed a slight improvement over the previous year. Rewards amounting to Rs. 36,645 were distributed during the year, of which Rs. 8,407 were given to private persons. The title of Sardar Sahib was conferred on Mr. Sant Singh, Deputy Superintendent, Nagpur, for good work done by him as City Superintendent of Nagpur.

### 3.—Criminal Justice.

\*Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.

**Crime.**

48. The number of offences reported, including pending cases brought forward from the previous year, rose from 38,586 to 41,315 and of cases found to be true from 31,134 to 33,461. Offences under the Indian Penal Code showed an

increase from 23,363 to 25,107. the principal increases occurring in criminal conspiracy, offences against the public tranquillity and against the human body. The Nagpur flag agitation, the disturbed state of the political atmosphere which was an aftermath of the non-co-operation propaganda and the stimulus of improved economic conditions to petty quarrels were respectively responsible for the increases. Offences against Special and Local Laws showed a similar increase from 12,897 to 13,816. A large increase was noticeable in cases under the Excise and Opium Acts. The closure of liquor shops combined with the high duties imposed on excisable articles and the consequent high prices were responsible for widely spread illicit distillation and illicit traffic in drugs, and the energetic measures taken by Excise officers resulted in improved detection. There was a reduction in the number of offences against property (8,053 to 7,826) which is attributed to careful police vigilance, a prosperous season and ease of obtaining harvest employment.

49. The strength of the magistracy increased from 734 to 800, the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class Magistrates rising from 131, 241 and 359 to 146, 279 and 372, respectively. There were 486 Honorary Magistrates as against 423 in the previous year and a larger share of the work is being entrusted to this class of magistrate. The number of persons tried in Sessions Courts increased from 375 to 412, and those tried by District Magistrates from 179 to 228. Of the total number of cases disposed of, 19·7 per cent were tried summarily as against 18·5 per cent in the previous year. The percentage of convictions was maintained at the high level reached last year. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, rose from 241 to 871, a result of the enlargement of the scope of that section in the amended Criminal Procedure Code.

50. The total number of cases decided increased from 31,041 to 41,853. The average duration of magisterial cases rose from 22·7 to 23·4 days.

51. The number of Sessions Judges remained unchanged, while that of Additional Sessions Judges increased by four. The number of cases disposed of in Sessions Courts increased from 175 to 190. The average duration of cases rose from 38·4 to 2·6 days, and the percentage of convictions from 63 to 68.

**Appellate  
and  
Revisional  
Jurisdiction.**

52. A fifth judge for the Judicial Commissioner's Court was appointed for four months with effect from the 1st December 1923. The number of persons appealing rose from 325 to 370, and the number of persons applying for revision also increased from 843 to 955. The sentences of 14 persons were enhanced, while those of 230 persons were either reduced or set aside. The local Government preferred 14 appeals against acquittals. In eight the order of acquittal was confirmed and in five it was set aside. In one case the accused died and the appeal accordingly abated. The number of persons appealing in Sessions Courts and in Magistrate's Courts fell from 2,273 and 3,976 to 2,098 and 3,624, respectively. The duration of appeals in the Judicial Commissioner's Court and in Sessions Courts fell from 48·8 to 41·1 and from 24·2 to 23·0, respectively, but the duration of appeals in Magistrates' Courts rose from 18·3 to 19·0.

**Punish-  
ments.**

53. Of the total number of persons sentenced to imprisonment, 62 received sentences of 15 days and under, 4,299 above 15 days to six months, 1,873 above six months to two years and 306 above two years. Sentences of whipping decreased from 1,009 to 883, the decrease being due partly to the failure of subordinate Magistrates to appreciate the value of this form of punishment, partly to the fall in the number of theft cases, and partly to the wider scope of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The number of previous convicts sentenced fell from 650 to 623. The number of persons fined rose from 15,650 to 17,114 and the amount of fine imposed from Rs. 3,25,075 to Rs. 3,86,075. Death sentences and sentences of transportation numbered 57 and 97 respectively, as against 46 and 64 in the previous year. The number of boys sent to Reformatory Schools was 22, against 23 in the previous year.

**4.—Prisons**

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

**General.**

54. The year was one of improved economic conditions accompanied by a substantial decrease in crime, which would ordinarily have been reflected in a considerable decrease in the jail population. The figures of the year were, however, vitiated by an influx of Satyagraha prisoners during the four months of the Nagpur flag agitation, with the result that the number of direct admissions of all kinds of prisoners exceeded the previous year's figure by 11·6 per cent. With the cessation of this agitation there was a substantial fall in the jail population. The reorganization of the jail system

has now been carried out to the extent warranted by the circumstances and financial position of the province. For the 22 districts there are provided two Central Jails (one reserved for habituals), nine District Jails (one reserved for habituals), one Adolescent Jail and nine Subsidiary Jails (a portion of one of which is reserved for tubercular prisoners). For financial reasons it has not yet been possible to convert the lock-ups at Drug, Ellichpur and Basim into Subsidiary Jails. No further changes are contemplated in the immediate future, but the question of providing whole-time Superintendents for the Amraoti and Akola Jails, where the work of the Civil Surgeon is heavy, and for the Narsinghpur Adolescent Jail, where an officer with special qualifications is required, still awaits solution. No marked effect on the jail administration has followed from the stoppage of transportation to the Andamans.

55. The year opened with a population of 4,435 prisoners of all classes, showing a decrease of 342 from the figure of the previous year. The number of direct admissions during the year, exclusive of transfers, was 12,477, which exceeds the previous year's figure by 1,297. **Population.**

56. The total number of major and minor punishments inflicted on convicts showed a rise of 21 per cent. This deterioration is ascribed to the character of two classes of prisoners, the Nagpur Satyagrahis and the Pathans from the North-West Frontier Province who both showed an imperfect sense of obedience to constituted authority and a reluctance to submit to ordinary jail discipline. **Jail discipline.**

57. The number admitted into hospitals increased from 1,618 to 1,731 during the year, but the daily average sick fell from 75.00 to 60.07. The death-rate for the year was 19.47 against 20.10 in 1922, comparing favourably with the provincial death-rate of 29.31 and the mean for the last three years which was 26.68. There were no deaths due to cholera or influenza and only one due to malarial fever. **Health.**

58. The gross profits in the jail manufacturing departments increased from Rs. 1,15,167 to Rs. 1,66,932. The total earnings showed a slight increase of Rs. 2,205-12-0 (1.5 per cent). No less than 61 per cent of the total earnings were derived from the Nagpur Jail Press. The jail factories were on the whole fully employed, but it is essential in **Jail industries.**

order to secure permanent markets for the products of jail manufactures that the Inspector-General of Prisons should act as an active link between the manufacturing jail and the consuming departments of Government.

Expenditure.

59. The cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners fell from Rs. 7,23,212 to Rs. 6,99,287. The fall in the price of articles of diet was mainly responsible for the reduced expenditure, the average cost per head of feeding the convicts falling from Rs. 54-2-9 to Rs. 42-13-6.

### 5.—Civil Justice.

Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Bihar for the year 1923 and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.

Tribunals and character of litigation.

60. A fourth Additional Judicial Commissioner was appointed temporarily for four months from the 1st December 1923 under the Central Provinces Courts Act (VIII of 1924). The designations of Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs were changed to Subordinate Judges, 1st Class, and Subordinate Judges, 2nd Class, respectively, and the pecuniary limit of the jurisdiction of the latter was raised to Rs. 5,000. This increase of jurisdiction enabled the department to reduce the cadre of Subordinate Judges, 1st Class, by two and of Subordinate Judges, 2nd Class, by six. The number of institutions of suits fell from 127,038 to 112,746. The fall appears to have been due to the fact that owing to the good crops creditors were able to recover their money without recourse to the Civil Courts, though the increased cost of litigation may have been responsible to a certain extent. The total value of the various suits instituted rose from Rs. 3,51,15,130 to Rs. 5,18,03,555, and the average value per suit rose from Rs. 276 to Rs. 459.

Pending files and durations.

61. The average duration of suits was rather high. It was due to adjournments found to be necessary in the disposal of the heavy pending files of the previous year. The reduction in the number of courts and the transfer of cases to other courts were also to some measure responsible for the increase in the duration. The pending file of civil cases has decreased from 32,107 to 30,676, as a result of the fall in institutions.

Executions of decrees.

62. Applications for execution decreased by 1,441 and disposals by 924. 33,880 applications remained pending at the close of the year. There was a further improvement in the results of execution proceedings, which

is attributed to sales of land by civil courts in the Central Provinces and to the better prices of cotton in Berar.

63. The number of appeals instituted in the Judicial Commissioner's Court fell from 1,130 to 1,208, while the number of pending cases rose from 1,441 to 1,555. The total number of regular appeals instituted and disposed of in the District and Sessions Judges' Courts has further decreased from 3,731 and 3,788 to 3,435 and 3,377, respectively, while the pending file has slightly increased. Appellate litigation.

64. The number of legal practitioners has increased to 1,021, 63 pleaders having been enrolled during the year. The strength of the permanent copying staff is being reduced to the lowest possible limit by the employment of section-writers for occasional increase of work. The extension of the Court-house at Wardha was begun and the new Court-house at Lakhnadon and the Bar-room at Amraoti were completed during the year. The Civil Court-houses at Betul and Kelapur and the rebuilding of the burnt portion of the Court building at Ellichpur are nearing completion. The construction of the new Civil Court-house at Akola is progressing. Miscellaneous.

#### 6.- Registration.

[Annual note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1923]

65. The number of documents registered fell from 53,523 to 51,470 in the Central Provinces and from 79,438 to 63,538 in Berar. The drop of 13 per cent in the total number of registrations represents a return to normal figures. Both in the number and value of all classes of registrations the figures of 1922 were unusually high owing to particularly prosperous agricultural conditions. The value of property affected also fell from Rs. 1,055 lakhs to Rs. 881 lakhs. Compulsory and optional registrations affecting immoveable property declined by 16 and 21 per cent, respectively, while the number of registered wills rose by 12 per cent. The number of sale-deeds of land held in proprietary rights rose by one per cent, while that of sales of villages and shares fell by two per cent. Mortgages of proprietary rights were less numerous by five per cent. The number of sale-deeds and mortgages of malik-makhuza plots and absolute-occupancy holdings fell by nine and 13 per cent, respectively. As a result of the decrease in the number of documents registered, the income of the department fell to Rs. 6,39,240 as against Rs. 7,35,134 in 1922, i.e., by 13 per cent.

66. The expenditure of the department also fell from Rs. 2,59,181 to Rs. 2,40,568, or by seven per cent. The reduction in expenditure was obtained by several measures of economy effected during the year among which were the abolition of two sub-offices, the curtailment of redundant hawker establishment, the removal of superfluous moharrirs and reduction in the special and dear district allowances. The sub-offices at Amawara (Chhindwara), Janjgir (Bilaspur), Baloda Bazar (Raipur), and Sonjari Balod (Durg), which were held by salaried Sub-Registrars, were converted into *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars' offices and placed under the Tahsildars with a full-time departmental moharrir attached to each. About 21 underworked Sub-Registrars' offices, five in the Central Provinces and 16 in Berar were closed, and a new sub-office opened at Malegaon in the Akola district. As a result, 18 posts of Sub-Registrars, four of moharrirs and 20 of peons have been abolished and a further saving of about Rs. 31,000 is anticipated in the current year.

#### 7.—Municipal Administration

Divisional Review of the working of Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923-24

Number of  
municipali-  
ties, their  
constitution  
and meet-  
ings

67. The number of municipalities remained the same, that is, 61, as in the preceding year. The establishment of a municipality at Jalgaon was sanctioned and proposals for its constitution as well as for the constitution of those at Wun and Digras sanctioned last year have been received since the close of the year. All committees held the prescribed number of meetings, except Kalneshwar, Umrer, Saoner, Sihora, Mandla, Amraoti Camp, Ellichpur Civil Station and Akola. The attendance of both officials and non-officials at meetings was on the whole satisfactory. The Hinganghat Municipal Committee held a very large number of meetings, *i.e.*, 72, with the inevitable result that a great many of them proved abortive. The Raipur Municipal Committee also needlessly called a large number of meetings. The number of notified areas remained the same, *i.e.*, eight, as in the previous year. Orders for raising the Bina-Itawa notified area to the status of a municipality were passed during the year. General triennial elections were due in some municipalities, but were postponed as the rules for the reconstitution of municipal committees under the new Municipal Act were still under consideration. The Central Provinces Municipalities Act, 1922, was applied to Berar with effect from the 15th February 1924 and proposals for the reconstitution of municipal committees in Berar are being considered.

68. The total income, excluding the opening balance and <sup>Income</sup> the extraordinary and debt heads, rose from Rs. 52,32,000 to Rs. 58,52,000, but excluding Government contributions which amounted to Rs. 3,41,000, the total municipal income was Rs. 55.11 lakhs against Rs. 48.91 lakhs in 1922-23. The increase was almost under all heads of revenue. Agricultural prosperity and the consequent improvement in trade led to an increase of Rs. 27,000 in octroi receipts. The income from taxes other than octroi amounted to Rs. 23,69,000 against Rs. 21,58,000 in 1922-23; receipts from the tax on houses and lands and from the bazar cess increased by Rs. 29,000 and Rs. 8,000, respectively; and terminal tax receipts rose by Rs. 86,000, owing chiefly to the enhancement of the rates of the tax and the establishment of road <sup>income</sup>. The income from water rate rose from Rs. 4,25,000 to Rs. 4,65,000. Of the Government contribution of Rs. 3,41,000, Rs. 2,50,000 was allotted for education. The income of notified area committees rose from Rs. 1,10,000 to Rs. 1,16,000.

69. On account of the rejection of the budget by the <sup>Loans</sup> Legislative Council no new loan was given to any municipal committee. The loans outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 24,19,000, of which Nagpur was responsible for Rs. 13,27,000, Akola for Rs. 5,06,000 and Jabhulpore for Rs. 2,29,000.

70. The opening balance was Rs. 15,85,000 against <sup>Expendi-</sup> Rs. 12,14,000 in the previous year. Expenditure totalled <sup>ture.</sup> Rs. 58,22,000 against Rs. 54,57,900 in 1922-23. The closing balance of all municipalities, except Pauris, were in excess of the prescribed minimum. In the case of some municipalities the large closing balances represented the unspent balances of Government grants or of sums earmarked for special objects. The outlay on water-supply fell by Rs. 55,000, and that on drainage by Rs. 6,000. Expenditure on conservancy, hospitals and dispensaries and plague rose by Rs. 50,000, Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 18,000, respectively. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 7,84,000 to Rs. 9,02,000. The expenditure on notified area committees fell from Rs. 1,12,000 to Rs. 98,000.

### 8 - District Councils.

[Divisional Reviews of the working of District Councils in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923-24.]

71. The chief feature of the year was the holding of <sup>Constitution,</sup> elections under the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act, 1920. All the District Councils and Local Boards in the



Central Provinces, excepting four districts of the Nagpur Division, were reconstituted under the new Act, the constitution of the remaining local bodies being changed after the close of the year. The elections to Berar Local Boards and District Councils were postponed on account of delay in the framing of the election rules and will take place in March 1925. All the office-bearers of the new councils and Local Boards are now non-officials except in the Narsinghpur District Council and the Dindori Local Board. The Narsinghpur District Council specially elected an Extra-Assistant Commissioner as their Vice-Chairman, while at Dindori the Tahsildar was elected as Chairman of the Local Board in the absence of any suitable non-official.

Finance,  
Education,  
Medical and  
Miscellaneous.

72. Excluding debt heads, income increased from Rs. 60,40,363 to Rs. 64,35,800. Government contributions amounted to nearly Rs. 27 lakhs or 43 per cent of the total income, as against Rs. 28 lakhs or 46 per cent in the previous year. Government contributions include allotments of Rs. 15 lakhs for education and of more than Rs. 8 lakhs for civil works, excluding school buildings. Expenditure increased from Rs. 54.25 lakhs to Rs. 58.46 lakhs. The closing balance rose by Rs. 6,23,000 and was nearly Rs. 24 lakhs in excess of the prescribed minimum.

73. Expenditure on education rose from Rs. 25,39,000 to Rs. 27,08,000. Government contributions fell from Rs. 17,45,000 to Rs. 15,46,000 of which Rs. 8,73,197 were for the maintenance of new primary schools and Rs. 60,846 for pension contributions. Primary schools increased in number by 10 and middle schools by six. The proportion of recurring expenditure on education to the total income was 42 per cent, as in the previous year.

74. District Funds subsidized 178 dispensaries against 177 in 1922-23. Expenditure on conservancy was Rs. 17,600 against Rs. 16,900 in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 67,400, as compared with Rs. 72,100 in the year 1922-23, was spent on the construction and repair of wells, to which Government contributed the usual grant of Rs. 10,000. Expenditure on civil works increased from Rs. 16,53,000 to Rs. 18,73,000, the latter sum including Rs. 2,61,000 spent on school buildings. Government contributed Rs. 6,72,000 for the maintenance of roads and buildings transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils and Local Boards. The total

expenditure on communications rose from Rs. 7,72,040 to Rs. 9,22,054. Cattle pounds increased in number from 1,669 to 1,673, but receipts fell from Rs. 7,93,191 to Rs. 7,88,332, while expenditure rose from Rs. 3,88,758 to Rs. 3,90,642. Expenditure on veterinary dispensaries rose from Rs. 79,000 to Rs. 91,000. Relations between district officers and local bodies continued to be satisfactory.

#### 9 Military (Auxiliary Force, India)

75. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Rifles on the 31st March 1924 was 11 officers and 505 other ranks, out of whom reservists numbered 317. The number of marksmen was 74. Details were trained in the use of Machine Gun, Lewis Gun and the Big Gun at Fort Sitabuldi and Jubbulpore. The annual camp-of-exercise was held at Sihora, near Nagpur, and concentration camps at Amraoti, Raipur and Jubbulpore. There are seven officers and 14 other ranks in the corps who have passed through a Musketry School.

76. The enrolled strength of this Corps is two officers and 49 other ranks. The Corps has no separate organization, its members being attached for training to the Nagpur Rifles

The Nagpur  
Rifles.

Auxiliary  
Officers  
Corps

77. The enrolled strength of the battalion on the 31st March 1924 was 21 officers and 678 other ranks, of whom 10 officers and 307 other ranks were employed in the Central Provinces. Marksmen numbered 115 against 57 in the previous year, of whom 52 were from the Central Provinces. The annual camp-of-exercise was held at Adra in conjunction with the Chota-Nagpur Regiment and the 1st Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Regiment A. F., I.

2nd Batta-  
lion,  
Bengal-  
Nagpur  
Railway  
Regiment  
A. F., I

## CHAPTER IV.

### PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

#### 1.—Agriculture.

[Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture of the Central Provinces for the year 1923-24]

##### General.

78. The staff of the department remained at the same strength as in the previous year. The post of second Economic Botanist remained vacant and under instructions received from the Government of India no appointments are being made to the Indian Agricultural Service pending any change which may take place in the organization of the Agricultural Services. One Economic Botanist is now working entirely on cotton and its rotation crops in accordance with the scheme worked out in conjunction with the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The pay of the second Economic Botanist and part of the expenses incurred on cotton work are met from the funds available under the Cotton Cess Act and administered by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The total expenditure of the department during the financial year 1923-24 was Rs. 9,56,641, which included Rs. 92,145 on account of expenditure on botanical and other gardens. Receipts amounted to Rs. 2,74,996 and included Rs. 39,197 from botanical and other gardens. The net expenditure on agriculture alone thus amounted to Rs. 6,28,697 as compared with Rs. 5,86,312-6-10 in 1922-23.

##### Agricultural education.

79. The number of students attending the Agricultural College rose from 75 to 83, but of these 23 are from provinces outside the Central Provinces and Berar. The question of affiliating the college to the Nagpur University has been taken up and the University authorities appointed a committee to examine the equipment and staffing of the college. It was found that with certain small additions to the staff and by slightly extending the higher course, affiliation would not present any serious difficulty. Final orders are still awaited, but it is anticipated that in the forthcoming year the Agricultural College will be training its students for a degree in agriculture at the local University. The change of the present diploma course to a degree course will not affect the lower or certificate course in practical agriculture, as it was agreed

that this should be continued on its present lines. As a result of the findings of the Vocational Training Committee it has been decided to close the Agricultural School at Chandkhuri, Raipur, after the present year. The Powarkhera School at Hoshangabad is to be allowed to continue for some time longer and there are strong indications that this school is increasing in popularity and meeting some, at least, of the educational needs of the rural community.

80. The work of distributing improved varieties of staple crops increased still further in the past year, and over 212,000 maunds of such seed were placed at the disposal of the cultivating classes as compared with 138,000 maunds in the previous year. With its present staff the department is unable to keep a check or account of all seed distribution which is taking place, and the same remark applies also to the sale of improved implements, a private trade in which has sprung up in certain parts of the province. The varieties of seeds distributed in the year under review were mainly those tested and found suitable in previous years, and more attention to botanical work will have to be given in future, particularly to *rabi* crops and rice, in order that progress may be maintained. The department has, however, an early rice which will shortly be available for distribution and which, it is hoped, will be of particular value in areas where irrigation cannot be secured. It ripens in a period of about seventy days. It has also been found possible to pay more attention to plant diseases, particularly cotton wilt, while a serious outbreak of disease in the *pan* or betel vine gardens has also come under observation. The approximate value of the increased outturn resulting from the use of improved seed in 1923-24 amounted to about Rs. 50 lakhs as compared with the figure of about Rs. 46 lakhs in the preceding year. These figures offer a satisfactory comparison with the total annual cost of the whole department, which, as stated above, was in the neighbourhood of a little over Rs. 6 lakhs. Practically no new lines of work have been started in the latter part of the year under review as the Legislative Council, by a majority, refused its assent to all the votable demands of the department. It has, therefore, been working entirely with funds allotted by His Excellency the Governor to an extent sufficient to enable it to carry on essential work, and instead of developing in fresh directions the officers of the department have been employed in consolidating the work of previous years. The efforts made under the direct control

Agricultural  
enquiry and  
demonstration

of Government towards agricultural improvement have been ably supported by non-official bodies such as agricultural associations, co-operative shops and seed associations. In some cases these organizations are maintaining their own staffs for propaganda and extension of their activities. The co-operative associations in Berar continue to lead in enterprises of this nature and the number of these in operation in the past year amounted to 42. The share capital involved reached the sum of nearly Rs. 50,000 and on this a profit of over Rs. 17,000 was earned.

**Agricultural machinery**

81. In the previous year's review it was remarked that the department's work in introducing improved agricultural machinery was likely to expand considerably and this forecast has been amply justified in the year under report. Nearly 8,000 improved ploughs have been sold in the province, a very large proportion of these of a total value of over Rs. 3 lakhs being distributed in the Western Circle. Sugarcane mills, hoes and other implements have also found large numbers of purchasers, and although the sugarcane area in the province is not a large one over one hundred improved iron cane mills have been sold. The local Government reserved a special sum of money to be distributed as taccavi loans for the purchase of small power plants and this sum was drawn upon to the extent of Rs. 38,000. The scheme was a new one, but it is anticipated that in future even greater advantage will be taken of the facilities offered. In the purchase of machinery under this scheme the advice of departmental officers was freely offered and accepted. In order to ensure that agricultural machinery shall not be placed out in the districts without adequate provision being made for its care and maintenance, the department has made arrangements to supply the necessary instruction either in its own workshops or elsewhere, while a certain number of the staff of the department have received a special training in the subject.

**Cattle-breeding.**

82. In pursuance of the policy adopted in the previous year, pure-bred herds of *Malvi* and *Gaolao* cattle have been maintained at Hoshangabad and Garhi (Balaghat) farms, respectively. *Saniwal* (Montgomery) bulls are gradually being introduced into other herds with the intention of producing progeny which, although cross-bred, will be of a better type than the mother. The breeding herds owned by the department have been classified and animals considered too old for breeding have been eliminated. Already an improvement

in the number and quality of the calves is apparent. Considerable attention has been paid to the better feeding and management of cattle and a number of demonstrations on the preparation of ensilage in pits have been given. The equipment used in this demonstration consisted of a fodder-cutter and a small oil engine, the total cost of the two machines being less than Rs. 750. This system of feeding is very popular amongst the *gaolies* comprising the co-operative dairy society on the Telankheri Farm. In order to assist in meeting the demand for *Samul* bulls a herd of this breed is kept at Telankheri. The herd contains several young cows which have given up to ten or eleven seers of milk a day, a yield which only emphasizes still further the poor milking capacity of the average cow of the province.

### 2—Co-operative Societies

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923-24, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

83. The agricultural conditions of the year 1923-24 were **Co-operative Societies.** favourable, and, as might have been expected, the financial position of the co-operative movement showed some improvement. Recoveries during the year were the highest on record during the last six years, being Rs. 15,87,955 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 20,77,733 in Berar. Cotton fetched bumper prices, and the collections in Berar were three times as large as those of last year. The figures for the Central Provinces cannot be said to be so satisfactory, and indeed several Central Banks complain that members defaulted wilfully. The total of loans outstanding decreased from Rs. 64,48,600 and Rs. 47,50,714 to Rs. 58,57,493 and Rs. 43,42,114 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively. Taking renewals and overdues together, the arrears decreased from Rs. 63,59,962 to Rs. 55,58,740, while their percentage to total outstandings was 71·4 and 31·7 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively, as against 67·3 and 42·4 in the previous year. Owing to the large amount due for collection in the year the statistics of arrears present an unnecessarily gloomy appearance. As arrears have accrued they have either been allowed to remain overdue or renewals for short periods have been granted. What is required is a careful refixation of instalments in consultation with the societies so that the amount due in any year is within the paying capacity of the members. Although the financial position has thus improved, the condition of rural societies continued to be unsatisfactory, particularly in the Central Provinces. The number of societies of all kinds including primary credit societies declined further from 4,854

to 4,646 and the number of members from 153,899 to 150,236. In the Central Provinces the number of societies under award and liquidation rose from 479 and 154 to 602 and 235, and in Berar from 42 and 9 to 51 and 19 respectively. Out of 3,557 societies in the Central Provinces and 706 in Berar, no less than 2,550 and 188, respectively, took no loans in the year under report. About one-third of the total number of societies in the Central Provinces exist merely for the repayment of old debts and have practically ceased to be financed by the co-operative movement. The working capital increased from Rs. 3,39,76,232 to Rs. 3,44,19,995. The cost of administration rose from Rs. 3,93,123 to Rs. 4,34,340 and the cost to Government from Rs. 1,56,574 to Rs. 1,87,276. The total turnover of co-operative institutions rose from Rs. 5,81,68,733 to Rs. 6,29,12,046 and the percentage of the cost of administration to the turnover from '66 to '69.

**Working of  
Provincial  
and Central  
Banks and  
Central  
Societies**

84. The number of Central Banks rose from 34 to 35 and their working capital from Rs. 1,48,91,587 to Rs. 1,55,08,656. Share capital increased from Rs. 19,32,367 to Rs. 19,56,270, deposits from Rs. 88,83,144 to Rs. 90,82,365 and reserve and other funds from Rs. 10,66,395 to Rs. 13,98,450. Of the total amount of fixed deposits held by Central Banks, Rs. 4,80,758 were transferred to the Provincial Bank. Central Banks also held reserves of Rs. 13,45,048 which are available as fluid resource in case of need. Many Central Banks have reduced the rates of interest on deposits. The net profits earned by Central Banks during the year increased from Rs. 3,42 lakhs to Rs. 3,66 lakhs, but out of this Rs. 1,38,890 represents unrealized interest against Rs. 2,20,629 last year.

85. The financial position of the Provincial Bank is now one of considerable strength, and the chief problem before it is that of the investment of its surplus funds. At the beginning of the year, it held Rs. 15.26 lakhs over and above the amount required for the maintenance of adequate fluid resource and by the end of the year, the amount had risen to Rs. 20.86 lakhs. This surplus is invested in Government securities, short term deposits with commercial banks and fixed deposit with the Bihar and Orissa Provincial Bank. The rates of interest on deposits were reduced during the year, and they now vary from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for one year to  $6\frac{3}{4}$  per cent for five years in the case of individuals, and from  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent to 7 per cent in the case of banks. During the year recoveries of loans amounted to Rs. 14.93 lakhs, and fresh

advances to Rs. 12.26 lakhs against Rs. 9 lakhs in the previous year. The amount due by Central Banks decreased from Rs. 13.04 lakhs to Rs. 10.42 lakhs, while the working capital increased from Rs. 58.62 lakhs to Rs. 62.97 lakhs. No dividend was paid during the year.

86. The number of guaranteeing unions of primary rural credit societies fell from 305 to 256, and there was also a decrease in the number and membership of societies affiliated to them. The working capital of these unions declined from Rs. 41.43 lakhs to Rs. 35.40 lakhs. A large majority of these unions fail to give guarantees of any value, and their number is likely to be reduced still further.

87. The total number of societies of this class remained the same as last year, viz., 28, the number of agricultural unions falling from 21 to 20. The majority of these societies are dormant and very few work strictly according to their byelaws. The activities of some of them were affected by the prevalence of plague at the time of the cotton season. Their main work continued to be the propagation and distribution of the pure seed of Roseum cotton, of which 69,741 maunds were distributed as against 41,083 maunds last year.

Agricultural societies for purposes other than credit.

88. The number of these societies declined from 4,416 to 4,263 and their membership from 70,820 to 66,710. The working capital decreased from Rs. 127.62 lakhs to Rs. 121.13 lakhs. The average number of members per society remained stationary at 16, while the average loan per member fell from Rs. 158 to Rs. 153. The total loans advanced decreased from Rs. 54.13 lakhs to Rs. 46.33 lakhs, but cash advances increased from Rs. 21.25 lakhs to Rs. 24.99 lakhs. The percentage of cash loans to the total was 54 as against 40 in the preceding year. Deposits increased to Rs. 3.92 lakhs, i.e., by 50 per cent.

Rural credit Societies with unlimited liability.

89. The number of non-agricultural credit societies with unlimited liability fell from 46 to 38. The majority of these societies exist solely for the payment of old debts and will disappear altogether in course of time. Attempts are being made to re-organize a few which show some hope of survival. The number of limited Societies increased from seven to 10, while that of societies for purposes other than credit decreased from 17 to nine. The Co-operative Store movement showed no improvement, and during the year eight more stores were wound up, while four stores suffered a loss on the year's transaction.

Non-agricultural Societies.



**3—Veterinary Department.**

*"Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces and Bera for the year ending the 31st March 1924."*

90. The work done by the department during the year 1923-24 showed a great advance on that of the preceding four years. The total number of cases treated during the year came to nearly four lakhs against two and a half lakhs, the maximum attained in the best of the four previous years. In addition to this, medicines were sent out for the treatment of a large number of cases. This striking increase is a sure indication of the rapidly increasing popularity of the department. An important feature of the case work during the year was the increase of nearly 60 per cent over the figure for the preceding year in the number of castrations performed, which was due to the introduction of the "Burdizzo" castrator. The number of cattle estimated to have died from contagious diseases was nearly double that reported last year, but below the number estimated in 1919-20 and 1920-21, when severe epidemics visited the province. Rinderpest appeared only in a mild form and showed no tendency to spread, 60 per cent of the inoculations during the year being for rinderpest. 8,790 animals were inoculated for Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia, which was the second most fatal disease reported and which was particularly virulent during the year. Owing to the removal of restrictions on touring, Veterinary Assistants and Inspectors toured more freely and the number of cases treated by them was 296,275, including 20,428 castrations, as against 136,396 in the previous year. The number of cases treated at dispensaries and mofussil cases supplied with medicines rose from 215,449 to 242,184. Three new dispensaries were opened during the year and the number now stands at 87. Nine Veterinary Assistants were placed on special duty to emasculate unsuitable bulls during the cold weather and the large number of animals operated upon indicates that the stock owners are beginning to appreciate Western methods of castration. The Deputy Superintendent in charge of the laboratory who was deputed to Muktesar for training has returned and the work of the laboratory continued to expand apace, the number of specimens examined being more than four times that reported for 1922-23, which was the maximum ever attained. The increase is a convincing proof of the value of the laboratory to the department. The question of constructing a fully equipped laboratory, serum dépôt and experimental station, the need for which is now clearly indicated, is under the consideration of Government.

## 4—Weather and Crops

Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st May 1924, area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1923-24, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I

91 The general course of the 1923 monsoon is described in paragraph 16 of the second part of this report. The average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces as a whole was 51.35 inches as compared with the 56 years' average of 48.37. For Berar the rainfall averaged 28.33 as against the average for 30 years of 32.59 inches. Rainfall.

92 The cropped area of the Central Provinces and Berar together was 24,382,205 acres, thus showing an increase of 146,449 acres over the previous year's figure, and was only two per cent below the average of the quinquennium ending 1917-18 (24,906,000 acres). The area double-cropped in the Central Provinces alone was 2,482,469 acres, an increase of four per cent, the increase occurring mostly in Chhattisgarh (10 per cent). Double-cropping is not of much importance in Berar. The area under *kharif* crops in the Central Provinces showed a net decrease of 434,152 acres or three per cent, and there was also a slight decrease of one per cent in Berar. The area under *juar* fell by six per cent in the Central Provinces and by two per cent in Berar. The total area under *til* in the province fell by two per cent. Restricted *kharif* sowings owing to heavy and continuous rainfall and ploughing up of damaged *kharif* areas for resowing them with some other spring crops are among the principal reasons for this shrinkage. Character of the season.

93. The *rabi* areas of the Central Provinces and Berar taken together show an increase of 746,558 acres (10 per cent), which is shared by all districts except Mandla and Bhandara. It was chiefly due to favourable sowing conditions and to the damaged *kharif* area being ploughed up and sown with spring crops. The area placed under wheat and wheat-gram amounted to 3,308,416 acres in the Central Provinces and exceeds the previous year's figure by 220,928 acres or seven per cent. The area covered by linseed in the Central Provinces and Berar together rose by 306,946 acres or 30 per cent. The total area irrigated in the Central Provinces and Berar was 1,101,586 acres, an increase of 42,970 acres or four per cent. In the Nerbudda Division the area rose by 44 per cent, while in the Nagpur Division it contracted by four per cent. As the monsoon in the latter division was more constant than

last year, there was less necessity for artificial watering. The net increase of 47,967 acres in the Chhattisgarh Division was due to the fact that in the Raipur district the rainfall after the third week of August was short and hence there was more need for irrigation from Government as well as private tanks. In Berar irrigation is chiefly confined to garden crops. The area irrigated increased in Buldana by 22 per cent as there was plenty of water in Sindkhed tank, while it decreased slightly in the other districts.

Yield of  
autumn  
(kharif)  
crops.

94. *Rice*.—The monsoon, which started late and continued long in the rice-growing districts, gave ample rain. It was well distributed for all the stages of cultivation everywhere except in Raipur—the most important rice district, in many portions of which it was scanty in July and August. The provincial yield stood at 13 annas, the same as in the preceding year.

*Juar*.—In most of the cotton and juar country there was too much rain from July to September. It caused some damage to crops on the heavier lands, though the lighter ones fared well. For the Central Provinces and Berar together the average yield was 11 annas as against 12 in the previous year.

*Cotton*.—The abnormally heavy and continuous middle monsoon retarded weeding and stunted the growth of cotton plants, and in some districts caused a certain amount of land to be resown with other crops. The rains practically ceased at the close of September, and the cotton plants then improved temporarily, but afterwards suffered for want of moisture. On the whole, the season did not appear to be a good one for the crop and the provincial yield was given as 11 annas, but the market statistics showed that the crop was in reality little inferior to that of the previous year.

*Til*.—Heavy and continuous rains restricted sowing operations, stunted the growth of plants and damaged the crop in several districts. The season was somewhat more favourable to *rabi* til than to *kharif*. The outturn was 11 annas against 12 in 1922-23.

*Ko don-kutki*.—Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions are the important tracts for these crops, and the outturn for the province as a whole stood at 13 annas against 15 in the previous year.

95. *Wheat*.—Owing to the presence of sufficient moisture in the soil at sowing time germination was successful everywhere, but there was a marked absence of winter rains till January, and when the rains were received they were then either too late or accompanied by hail, which caused more damage than in the previous year. For the Central Provinces and Berar together a 13 anna crop was gathered against a 15 anna yield in 1922-23.

Yield of  
spring (rabi)  
crops.

*Linseed*.—On account of late winter rain, hail, rust and cloudy weather the crop was damaged to a varying degree. The outturn was 10 annas as against 13 annas last year.

The total yield of all crops was 98 per cent in the Central Provinces, 82 per cent in Berar and 93 per cent for the province as a whole against the corresponding 1922-23 figures of 109, 84 and 101.

#### 5—Horticulture.

[Comments by the Director of Agriculture on the return of expenditure of the Divisional and District gardens in the Central Provinces and Berar.]

96. Some of the district gardens have still to recover from the heavy losses caused by the intense heat of the previous year and a number of them are too large to permit of economical maintenance now that high wages have to be paid to secure the necessary labour. Receipts, however, showed a slight increase from Rs. 14,299 to Rs. 14,557, while expenditure declined from Rs. 28,098 to Rs. 26,892, so that the total net expenditure was Rs. 12,335 against Rs. 13,799 for the previous year, a difference of Rs. 1,464.

District  
gardens

97. The receipts obtained by the sale of produce from the gardens at Nagpur were slightly less than those of the preceding year and in the case of the Maharaj Bagh and Telankheri gardens amounted to Rs. 7,543 and Rs. 1,104, a decrease of Rs. 47 and Rs. 704, respectively. An effort is being made to restock the gardens with such fruiting and flowering plants as command a ready sale. The total excess of expenditure over receipts for the gardens in Nagpur amounted to Rs. 14,643 against Rs. 13,463 for 1922-23, but much of this expenditure was incurred on account of non-productive gardens such as those at Government House, the Legislative Council Hall, Secretariat, Law Courts, Post Office, etc. The Superintendent, Horticultural Gardens, was transferred to Delhi for a year and will then proceed on leave preparatory to retirement. The vacant post has not been filled and although considerable saving is thereby

Provincial  
gardens.

effected, the work of the gardens cannot be so closely controlled as in the past. The Pachmarhi gardens, which are worked under special conditions with regard to the market they command, still continue to show a substantial profit. The excess of receipts over expenditure for the past year amounted to Rs. 1,966, an increase of Rs. 113 over the previous year.

## 6. Forests

[Report on the Forest Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st March 1924.]

**Forest area.** 98. The total area of forest under the management of the Forest Department was 19,680 square miles against 19,785 square miles in the previous year. The decrease is mainly due to the relinquishment of 99 square miles for raiyatwar cultivation.

**Demarcation and survey.** 99. Rs. 15,907 was spent on demarcation. There was a reduction of 81 miles in the total length of boundaries to be demarcated owing to the exclusion of the area referred to above. Three blocks in the Sonawani range of the Balaghat division were surveyed by the Survey of India Department Party No. 5 on the scale of 1" to a mile.

**Working plans.** 100. No new working plans were sanctioned during the year. The prescriptions of old working plans were adhered to as far as practicable. Preliminary working plans have been prepared for the North Chanda, Betul and South Raipur (mixed forests) divisions and approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests. The revision of working plans remained in arrears, no experienced officers being available to undertake the work.

**Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.** 101. 125 miles of new roads were constructed at a cost of Rs. 31,069 and 7,977 miles repaired at a cost of Rs. 53,362. From the loan fund Rs. 84,299 was spent on the construction of 196 miles of important roads. The project for the construction of a steam tramway in the South Raipur division was further examined, and it is hoped that the detailed survey of the line will be taken up soon. The total expenditure incurred on new buildings and repairs was Rs. 67,734 and Rs. 44,992, respectively. The provision of accommodation for all classes of Forest officers is still inadequate. Nearly Rs. 20,000 was spent on the improvement of water-supply.

102. The total number of forest offences rose from 13,648 to 15,196, of which 13,590 were dealt with under section 67 of the Indian Forest Act, 297 were taken into court and 1,183 remained undetected. Illicit felling and illicit grazing occurred in all the circles, the increase under the latter head being more marked in the Berar circle. Of the cases tried in Court 66 per cent resulted in conviction.

103. The area protected from fire fell from 9,235 square miles in the previous year to 8,563 square miles in the year under report. The results of fire conservancy were not encouraging, the area in which protection was unsuccessful being as high as eight per cent of the total area. Comparison with previous years is rendered difficult as figures regarding fires in early burnt areas have been wrongly included in the statistics of one circle. The causes of fire were unknown in 58 per cent of the outbreaks. 17 per cent of the area was closed to grazing throughout the year, and 10,565 cattle were impounded.

104. Natural regeneration in the year was on the whole good. The existing plantations were maintained ; *ghoni* (*Zizyphus xylopyra*) was sown in the Damoh division over 822 acres and *taungya* plantations on a small scale were begun in Seoni. No general extension of plantations is, however, contemplated. Thinning and cutting back operations were carried out over an area of 170,259 acres at a cost of Rs. 65,421 and a revenue of Rs. 1,13,550 realized from the produce, a result which serves to show the remarkable advance made in tending operations during the year as well as the financial possibilities of work which aims solely at the improvement of the forest. The area worked by systematic fellings declined from 188,792 to 183,384 acres. The value of minor produce removed amounted to Rs. 11,85,193 against Rs. 10,66,795 in 1922-23. The result was due to better demand stimulated by a good harvest. Under lac there was a decrease of Rs. 1,27,203 due to unfavourable climatic conditions and fall in prices. The outturn of lac in Damoh fell from 1,913 maunds to 1,025 maunds. 3,388,833 animals grazed in Government forests against 3,131,898 last year, the increase being due to efficient and systematic checking of grazing. The total grazing fees actually realized were Rs. 12,93,384 and the value of grazing concessions amounted to Rs. 11,34,870. The value of major produce extracted by all agencies was Rs. 23,86,468 and of minor produce

Rs. 36,62,132, the total value exceeding the figure for last year by nearly Rs. 8 lakhs.

**Financial results.**

105. The gross total income from the forests of the province was Rs. 51,04,930 against Rs. 47,60,115 last year, and the expenditure Rs. 30,15,143, giving a surplus of Rs. 20,89,787 against Rs. 16,73,406 in 1922-23. The percentage of net revenue to gross was 46 against 36 last year. Grazing alone contributed nearly 25 per cent. of the total revenue, notwithstanding concessions amounting to nearly an equivalent sum. Including the sales at the Allapilli and Bedigundum depôts the total revenue from departmental timber operations was Rs. 3,56,583 and the total expenditure Rs. 1,33,426, leaving a surplus of Rs. 2,23,157 on the year's working.

**7—Excise.**

[Report on the Excise Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923]

106. Last year's report on the Excise Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar dealt with the period of nine months from April to December 1922, in order to give effect to the decision that the excise year should coincide with the calendar year and not the financial year. The statistics contained in the last year's report, therefore, were for nine months. This year's statistics are for the calendar year 1923 and comparison is made with those of the calendar year 1922.

107. Further progress was made towards the fulfilment of the new policy which accepts prohibition of the sale of country spirit as the ultimate goal of the excise administration of the province. The quantity of country spirit consumed during the year declined to 451,719 proof gallons, or by 13 per cent, and the total revenue from country spirit decreased from 80.31 to 78.92 lakhs. Duty rates were further enhanced. The all-round incidence of direct taxation has been raised to Rs. 11-6-5 per proof gallon as compared with Rs. 11-4-4 per proof gallon last year. The incidence is 41 per cent higher than in 1921-22. Last year country spirit of 45° U. P. strength was substituted for 35° U.P. This year the issue of 45° U.P. was further restricted. The bulk of country spirit consumed is of 60° U.P. strength. The total estimated consumption of tari rose from 1,094,320 to 1,149,547 gallons with a corresponding rise in the revenue from tari from Rs. 2.90 to Rs. 3.95 lakhs. The tari tree tax was raised from Rs. 2 to

Rs. 3 per + ee in Central Provinces and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 in Berar with effect from the 1st October 1923. The heavy rise of country spirit prices in the last two years has given a marked stimulus to the consumption of tari. There was a slight increase in the consumption of foreign and Indian made foreign spirit, in spite of the scale of taxes having been raised in nine localities.

108. The sale of opium declined to 30,433 from 30,843 seers. The fall is due to higher selling rates consequent upon an enhancement in the issue price from Rs. 63 to Rs. 70 in 15 districts after the 1st April. The limit of individual possession and of retail sale was reduced from two tolas to one tola. Reduction was also made in the corresponding limits from three tolas to two tolas and one tola to half a tola in the case of ganja and charas, respectively. There was a slight fall in the consumption of ganja from 27,239 to 27,118 seers.

109. The gross excise revenue rose from Rs. 121.42 lakhs to Rs. 124.69 lakhs. The total expenditure declined from Rs. 6.99 lakhs to Rs. 6.85 lakhs.

110. The number of country spirit shops, opium shops and ganja shops declined from 2,547, 1,041 and 1,036 to 2,490, 1,031 and 1,032, respectively.

111. The most disquieting feature of the year was the rise in the number of opium and excise offences. Prosecutions rose from 2,122 to 2,560. The rise was most marked in the number of prosecutions for illicit distillation and the smuggling of opium and ganja, and was due to the high selling price of liquor, opium and hemp drugs prevailing in the Central Provinces.

### 8.—Mines and Quarries.

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract]

112. With the depression in the coal trade the total Collieries, output of the province fell from 675,778 tons in 1922 to 547,982 tons, and the value fell from Rs. 52,25,490 to Rs. 36,28,313. Eight new coal mines were started during the year and despite the fall in prices, a good deal of development was carried on in the coal fields. The important colliery at Ballarpur which was sealed after a fire in 1922 was re-opened in September 1923. The average pit's mouth value for the province fell from Rs. 7-12-3 to Rs. 5-10-5.



**Manganese**

113. There was a brisk demand for manganese during the year. High prices continued to rule and led to the working of deposits of low grade ore or ore hard to win which had been abandoned. The output increased substantially from 344,772 tons with a pit's mouth value of Rs. 31,91,356 in 1922 to 508,116 tons valued at Rs. 67,00,117. The development of the industry was too rapid for the labour supply, but a good deal of ore was put on the market, which had accumulated at the mines during the years of depression, and in most places these stocks have disappeared. The average pit's mouth value of the ore varied from Rs. 11-12-10 in Bhandara to Rs. 15-10-7 in Nagpur. The provincial average value of the ore was Rs.13-3-4.

**Limestone and other minerals**

114. Of a total of 27 limestone quarries, 20 in Jubbulpore and two in Bilaspur were actually worked, and production increased from 131,606 tons valued at Rs. 2,98,090 to 252,703 tons valued at Rs. 4,66,198-4-0. The output of white clay fell from 34,452 tons valued at Rs. 16,352 to 20,293 tons valued at Rs. 9,512, and that of soapstone and red oxide of iron rose from 90 and 594 to 999 and 2,328 tons, respectively.

**Miscellaneous**

115. The total number of persons employed in mines was 30,975 against 30,177 in the previous year. Of these 12,098 were employed in manganese mines, 10,302 in coal mines and 8,575 in limestone and other quarries. Of the total number of persons employed, 70 per cent were employed in the working of the mines and 30 per cent in subsidiary work on the surface. There were 40 accidents during the year, of which 12 were fatal and 28 serious; 37 persons were killed and 26 seriously injured. The health of the labourers was generally good. The number of inspections by district officers was adequate except in Nagpur, where local conditions prevented such free touring by the Deputy Commissioner and his staff as is possible in other districts, and in Bhandara, where the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, has taken steps to have all the mines inspected during the current year.

**9.—Manufactures.**

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923.]

116. The number of factories increased from 544 to 574, of which 562 were actually working. Factories employed on a daily average 64,067 persons, of whom 39,844 were males,

22,551 for 1923 and 1,872 in 1924, compared with 59,076 for 1923. The decrease was chiefly in the cotton spinning and pressing factories and the mills. Workmen lost 21 days during the year. Sixteen accidents occurred, but none of them was of a serious nature and all were settled amicably. The health of the operatives was on the whole good. A welcome feature of the increase in the productivity of the owners of power and machinery was the growing sense of responsibility of their employees. There has been a considerable fall in the number of fatal and serious accidents, from 16 and 60 last year to 8 and 10, respectively, during the year under review. It is believed that with the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation Act with effect from the 1st July 1924, owners and managers will be brought to realize the importance of ordinary safety precautions, the neglect of which will render them not only liable as before to criminal prosecution, but also to pay compensation to all persons injured or to their relatives in the case of fatal accidents. Twenty-two persons were convicted under the Act during the year as against 71 last year. There has been some improvement in the number of inspections since last year.

#### 10—Industries

[Report on the working of the Department of Industries, of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st December 1923.]

117. During the year the Director of Industries was associated with an Advisory Board consisting of 20 members, five officials and 15 non-officials, nine of whom were members of the Legislative Council. The Board performed its functions successfully, but the development of industries was hampered by lack of funds and no new scheme of importance could therefore be introduced.

118. The number of boilers inspected was 887, of which 850 were licensed in the first instance, licences to 31 were issued after suggested repairs had been carried out, while six were condemned as unsafe. The number of licences issued shows an increase of 71 over the figure for the preceding year. An additional Inspector was appointed at the end of 1923 to cope with the increased inspection work under the new Indian Boilers Act, which came into force on the 1st January 1924. The total capacity of the electric plant installed was 14,500 kilowatt, showing an increase of 6,200 kilowatt over last year. There were 195 electric motors in use, totalling over 15,300 B. H. P. There are two licensed electric supply undertakings

in the province, one at Nagpur and the other at Khandwa, and a third is under construction at Jubbulpore. The Nagpur Electric Light and Power Company is extending its mains into the city and has also made arrangements to supply the Railway Companies with energy for lighting their station yard and quarters. The Khandwa Electric Supply Company similarly shows a steady increase in the number of consumers, but its progress has been hampered by the financial difficulties of the licensees. The Central Provinces Electric Supply Company had difficulty in obtaining the necessary capital for their work at Jubbulpore, little of which had been done in the time prescribed in the licence. The advantage of up-to-date methods of power application is becoming more widely recognized and in the two new cement factories in the Jubbulpore district and the new Model Mills at Nagpur the electric drive has been adopted and modern plant installed. Electrical plant has also been installed at the Ballarpur Colliery, while the Rajurh Colliery is being similarly equipped. It is also interesting to note that the management of the Empress Mills at Nagpur has decided to instal the most up-to-date method of power application at their mills. The electrical plant and installations at the King Edward College, Amraoti, were tested and taken over from contractors in the early part of the year and are now working economically. The results of the earlier spade work done by the Textile Expert and his staff are becoming increasingly apparent year by year. The number of sleys sold during the year amounted to 1,555, and it is a most hopeful sign that local carpenters have now begun to copy the Government's model. The improved warping machine was also introduced during the year, and in Nagpur alone 30 were sold at a price of Rs. 120 each. Apart from occasional lectures at fairs, in which the work of demonstration in public is opposed to popular religious feeling, the Leather Expert was fully employed as a Factory Inspector. The construction of the Leather Tanning School at Nagpur was taken in hand and the building will probably be ready for occupation before the end of the year 1924. Sanction was given to increase the number of pupils from 40 to 60 in each of the Schools of Handicrafts at Akola and Amraoti, and the numbers were increased also at the schools at Dhamtari and Parasia. The number of part-timers from the Bengal-Nagpur Railway workshops who attend the Nagpur school for drawing and theory has increased, but no apprentices from the Gun Carriage Factory now attend the Jubbulpore school, as the Factory has started its own class. A scheme to remove

the Mochi School at Nagpur from the building of the School of Handicrafts and to change its status to that of an aided school has been sanctioned. The daily average number of boys in the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore rose from 106 in 1922 to 117. The efficiency of the industrial training imparted in the Reformatory, which is supervised by the Inspector of Industrial Schools, is shown by the results of the recent examination at which 105 out of 118 boys passed difficult tests satisfactorily.

### 11.—Public Works.

[Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for the year 1923-24, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

119. During the year a number of important works were **General** carried out by the department. A distinct, if slight, revival of building activity due to the improved finances of the province was manifested.

The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 61,98,638 against Rs. 55,22,662 in the previous year. Expenditure on Central works was Rs. 17,827, on Provincial works Rs. 46,81,181 and on Contributitional works Rs. 62,123.

120. No Imperial work of any importance was under- **Imperial** taken during the year. **works.**

121. Of the total expenditure under this head, **Provincial** Rs. 23,61,176 was spent on original works and Rs. 23,20,005 **works.** on repairs. Details of some of the Provincial works carried out are given in the following paragraphs.

122. (a) *Buildings*.—Out of the total of Rs. 15,32,350, original works accounted for Rs. 10,62,890 and repairs for Rs. 4,69,460. Under "Excise" an expenditure of Rs. 1,52,217 was incurred, of which Rs. 1,34,864 was on the purchase by Government of the Distillery buildings at Kamptee from Messrs. Parry & Company.

Under "General Administration" a sum of Rs. 77,343 was spent. Certain additions and alterations to the District Court-house at Balaghat were carried out during the year and those to the District Court-houses at Amraoti and at Akola were in progress.

Under "Administration of Justice" a sum of Rs. 1,35,663 was spent. The construction of a new Civil Court at Betul and

a Court-house for a Subordinate Judge, 2nd Class, at Kelapur in the Yeotmal district and at Lakhnadon in the Seoni district was completed.

The works of the Police Department accounted for an expenditure of Rs. 1,78,367. The Police staff quarters at the Graddock Town, Nagpur, and the Police buildings at Sindewahi in the Chanda district, at Itarsi in the Hoshangabad district, at Kaknair in the Nimar district and at Khallar in the Amraoti district were completed during the year. Ten other works were in progress, among which the most important were the construction of quarters for the additional armed force and sawars attached to the Police Lines at Jubbulpore and for constables in the Police Lines at Saugor.

A sum of Rs. 2,28,146 was spent on Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian). The most important work was the completion of the King Edward Arts College at Amraoti, on which a sum of Rs. 69,224 was spent during the year. The total expenditure on this building up to the end of the year was Rs. 14,91,272. The Marathi Girls' School at Anjangaon in the Amraoti district, the extensions and improvements to the High School at Khandwa and to the Normal School building with subsidiary buildings at Khandwa were completed during the year. The construction of a new hostel block and certain improvements to the present hostel attached to the Hindu High School at Amraoti and the construction of another block along with certain additions and alterations to the dining block attached to the Normal School at Amraoti were in progress.

An expenditure of Rs. 1,03,909 was incurred on Medical buildings during the year. Additions and alterations were made in the Mental Hospital at Nagpur and in the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore. A considerable amount of work was done in providing additional buildings to the Robertson Medical School and the Mayo Hospital at Nagpur.

Under other heads the expenditure incurred was :—Land Revenue Rs. 3,411 ; Forest Rs. 9,371 ; Jail and Convict Settlement Rs. 48,599 ; Public Health Rs. 18,282 ; Agriculture Rs. 11,817 ; Industries Rs. 42,949 and Civil Works Rs. 47,369.

(b) *Communications*.—Under this head the amount spent on original works was Rs. 12,84,319 and on repairs Rs. 18,50,249. The Anjangaon-Akot and Badnera-Khelda roads were completed and opened for through traffic. Nine other roads were under construction and 27 were

being raised in class. Two high level bridges and one submerged bridge were completed during the year, while ten submerged bridges and one high level bridge were under construction. The Arpa bridge at Bilaspur, the Maru bridge at Bhiwapur, the Hiron bridge on the Jubbulpore-Damoh road and the Penganga bridge at Mehkar were the most important submerged bridges under construction. Satisfactory progress was made in each case. The construction of three forest roads was taken up in the South Raipur Division, while the survey and projects for certain other forest roads in the Nagpur and Hoshangabad districts were completed during the year. The raising in class of the Timarni-Rahatgaon road in the Hoshangabad district which was in hand is a work of great importance to the Forest Department.

Arboricultural operations were mainly confined to the provision of tree-guards, maintenance of roadside avenues and the proper upkeep of young trees and nurseries.

The necessity for the revision of the maintenance allowances of roads throughout the province has for a long time been recognized. The allowances were in a large majority of cases fixed years ago, and despite the universal increase in the price of labour and material, they have largely remained unchanged. Complaints have been made that roads are not properly maintained, and that surfaces are deteriorating. This is bound to occur, unless adequate provision is made for the timely renewal of these surfaces, subjected as they are in many cases to considerable motor traffic, which did not exist when the allowances for maintenance were originally fixed. This question is receiving careful attention.

Another essential feature of road maintenance is the adequate supply of plant for their proper upkeep. Many of the rollers in the possession of the department are old and inefficient, and the supply of new rollers has not kept pace with the yearly increase in the mileage of metalled roads. The supply, as soon as funds permit, of a large number of new steam-rollers is an urgent need.

Owing to the boom in manganese, a number of firms owning manganese mines in the neighbourhood of the Baihar-Balaghat road applied for licences to run motor lorries on this road from the mines to the railway station at Balaghat. Permission was accordingly given for twelve 8-ton lorries to ply on the road. The expectation that the road surface would suffer was fully realized. Though a toll was fixed on the manganese thus transported, the amount that will be realized will be quite incommensurate with the cost Government will have

to incur annually to keep the road in reasonable order. This experience has conclusively proved that water-bound macadam roads are quite unsuitable to the conditions imposed by heavy motor traffic. It is essential that where such traffic is likely to develop, the roads should be reconstructed in accordance with modern practice. The difficulty is that the initial cost of such roads is extremely high.

\*(c) *Sanitary works.*—No sanitary works of importance were started during the year. The boring operations commenced at Akola in 1923 with a view to investigating the possibilities of a subterranean water-supply were continued till the bore reached a depth of 300 feet. The results were most disappointing and it is clear that no augmentation of the water-supply of Akola can be obtained in this way. A sum of Rs. 11,640 was spent on the operations during the year.

#### 12.—Archæology.

123. During the year a sum of Rs. 19,628 was spent on the conservation of ancient monuments, the chief works carried out being the completion of a shelter for protecting the sculptures at Sirpur in the Raipur district and special repairs to the tomb of Nadir Shah at Burhanpur, the Jumma Masjid in the fort at Asirgarh in the Nimar district, the Balapur fort in the Akola district and the Achaleswar gate of the fort at Chanda.

#### 13.—Irrigation.

[Administration Report on the Irrigation Branch for the year 1923-24.]

Area under  
irrigation.

124. The total area irrigated during the year was 438,145 acres as compared with 417,754 acres in the previous year. The net area assessed was 449,009 acres, which is the highest on record. There was an increase in the irrigation of *kharif* and perennial crops, the areas irrigated during the year being 427,742 and 1,528 acres as compared with 407,476 and 1,156 acres, respectively, in the previous year. The area of *rabi* irrigation dropped from 9,122 to 8,875 acres owing to the late rain in October and the favourable rainfall of December and January, and was small as compared with the figures for 1920-21 and 1921-22, when the *rabi* area irrigated was 14,781 and 21,553 acres, respectively. An assured demand for irrigation for *rabi* can never be expected in this province and considerable fluctuations depending on the nature of the season are bound to occur. During the year 50 new agreements for rice irrigation were made, of which 36 were under the Mahanadi canal. Six agreements under the Tandula canal were cancelled as the channels on which the villages were situated were overcrowded and it was not

possible to irrigate these villages satisfactorily. Agreements for *rabi* irrigation were entered into under the Narayanpura tank in the Shahgarh tract of the Saugor district, which is the only tract in the province where *rabi* irrigation is likely to be done regularly, and where a reasonable rate will be paid for the water used. The extent to which new agreements have been obtained is fairly satisfactory. There is not at present much scope for new agreements except under the Mahanadi Canal. Under this canal some 60 villages were placed in a position to obtain irrigation for the first time, and about half this number entered into agreements. The year was one of good and generally well distributed rainfall and in such a year no great extension of the area under agreement can be expected. The fact that nine villages under tanks in the Raipur and Drug districts, in which agreements had expired, renewed them at a rate rising gradually to Rs. 4 per acre is, however, a satisfactory sign, justifying as it does the expectation that when a village has had the advantage of irrigation for a considerable period it will not readily forego it. Under works other than the Mahanadi canal new agreements will generally be obtained only as arrangements are made to develop those works. It was stated in last year's report that the conditions of each work were being considered separately, with a view to decide what action should be taken. Progress is, however, painfully slow, largely because the *chak* and *colaba* registers have not been prepared with sufficient accuracy. It is hoped that, during the present year, these registers will be corrected and definite proposals will be made for a number of existing works.

125. As stated in last year's report the estimate for the Wainganga canal was closed on the 31st March 1923. During the year small scattered masonry works were constructed and some minors which were incomplete were completed. Some work still remains to be done, such as the provision of iron work for minor heads, construction of outlets and extension of minors. On the Mahanadi canal good progress was made on the three large distributaries Nos. 1, 2-A, and 2-B, which take off near the head of the canal. Work was continued on distributary No. 8 from the Mandhar Branch where it passes through Raipur town and in this length it was practically completed. A considerable quantity of rock excavation was done on the Baloda branch canal. The Maramsilli reservoir was almost complete, and two syphons of the spillway have since been tested and have been reported

Works.



to work satisfactorily. The preparation of revised agricultural statistics for many of the distributaries from the main canal was taken up. When the canals are designed the agreement system of irrigation had not been introduced and the adoption of this system will necessitate the re-modelling of certain channels, which must eventually be designed to suit the area that has to be irrigated under agreement. The construction of the Tindula Canal was completed with the exception of the work of remodelling distributaries. Detailed distribution statements are being prepared with a view to decide what remodelling is necessary. Progress on the Kharung project in the Bilaspur district has been slow. There have been difficulties with contractors at the head works, which have caused delay, and the recruitment of labour has been far below requirements. Arrangements have, however, now been made to recruit labour departmentally, and it is hoped that labour to the extent necessary to close the main dam by the rains of 1925 will be secured. On the canals the progress on earthwork was a good deal better than at the headworks, but the progress on masonry works was not satisfactory. The embankment of the Pariat tank in the Jubbulpore district was closed successfully before the rains of 1923, but progress on the construction of the left bank channel was slow and, indeed, it has not been completed sufficiently to allow irrigation to be commenced. In the Seoni district the construction of the Bori tank was commenced in October 1923 and a fair start was made on the headworks. Work was continued on the Chandia Nala Scheme in the Saugor district, the Kumhari tank in the Raipur district and on the Mala tank in the Damoh district; as also on the following small works: the Kuserla tank in the Chanda district and the Bahoribund, Jagwa, Amari and Chhotideori tanks in the Jubbulpore district.

Investigation of new works.

126. As stated in last year's report, a programme of new construction was prepared which contemplated the construction during a period of 14 years of nine new works and the completion of those works which are now in progress at a cost of nearly Rs. 5 crores. During the year the Government of India were addressed regarding the financing of this programme and they have intimated that they anticipate no difficulty in doing so. Estimates for the Bori tank in the Seoni district and the Maniari reservoir in the Bilaspur district were sanctioned during the year. The investigation of the Arpa and Agar Hap projects in the Bilaspur district,

the Katni river and Umroi projects in the Jubbulpore district, the Aritank in the Seoni district and the Mooram Nala tank in the Balaghat district was continued and generally good progress was made. In addition to these projects, an estimate for the Rila project in the Seoni district was received in January. It was decided that the work was unsuitable as a famine work and was no likely to be suitable for construction on the ordinary programme. Further investigation of this work has, therefore, been abandoned. The investigation of the Simrar project in the Jubbulpore district, which was commenced in 1921 to relieve distress, has been continued.

127. The capital expenditure incurred on the construction of irrigation works during the last five years is as follows :—

Expendi-  
ture

Year	55-A.		Total.
	(1) Productive	(2) Unproductive	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1919-20	1,71,402	1,08,866	23,97,378
1920-21	5,79,180	20,31,267	30,29,447
1921-22	17,11,012	12,24,518	31,22,130
1922-23	14,31,277	14,60,227	26,98,114
1923-24	7,58,813	15,43,095	23,11,979

The original budget provision under the Major head "55—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" was Rs. 32.33 lakhs and the revised estimate was Rs. 26.83 lakhs. The actual expenditure was, therefore, nearly 30 per cent below the original budget estimate and about 14 per cent below the revised estimate. The more important works on which surrenders and lapses occurred are detailed below :—

Serial No.	Name of work.			Amounts surrendered or lapsed.
				Rs.
1	Mahanadi canal	..	..	5,31,550
2	Tanpula canal	..	..	93,511
3	Kumhari tank	..	..	28,484
4	Kharung tank	..	..	1,18,193
5	Mila tank	..	..	27,560
6	Bahotibund tank	..	..	44,434

The provision made for the construction of distributaries from the Mahanadi canal was excessive and must have been made without due consideration of how it was to be expended.

Among the causes of the shortage of funds on the other works were the unavoidable postponement of some contemplated when the budget was prepared, change of labour, delay in the preparation of estimates, and the general forecast of the extent of development possible. It is now a definite programme of construction and of development on which the Irrigation Department is working at present, and it should be possible to forecast the progress with reasonable accuracy. The expenditure from revenue was Rs. 4.12 lakhs, of which Rs. 3.49 lakhs was spent on the completion of small works and the maintenance of other works under this head already completed, Rs. 5,379 on pensions and the remainder mainly on the investigation of new works.

**Revenue** 128. The revenue realized during the year from all sources was Rs. 11.72 lakhs as compared with Rs. 12.26 lakhs in the previous year. Though the amount realized was somewhat less than in the previous year, owing to the fact that the amount of arrears to be collected had been very largely reduced, the actual assessment of the year was Rs. 10.58 lakhs as compared with Rs. 9.17 lakhs in the previous year. The total amount of arrears outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 1.19 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5.60 lakhs in 1921-22 and most of these arrears have since been collected. This very satisfactory result is due to the efforts both of Irrigation and Revenue officers, and the system of revenue collection may now be regarded as having been placed on a thoroughly satisfactory basis. The cost of working expenses and maintenance of all works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept amounted to Rs. 10.09 lakhs as compared with Rs. 10.41 lakhs in the previous year.

**General** 129. During the year special attention has again been paid to the action necessary to secure the satisfactory maintenance and development of works that have already been constructed. The preparation of a scheme for the construction of watercourses by Government agency at the expense of the cultivators has been continued. This scheme is now almost ready, but there are certain points in it which require and are receiving further consideration. The necessity of constructing watercourses in the interests of economy and efficiency has been recognized. In order to meet the difficulty of obtaining agreements for whole villages, especially in the north of the province, it has been made permissible to accept agreements for *chaks* in certain cases. It has also been decided, in order to facilitate obtaining agreements, that

the whole of all fields, part of which is classified as *bandhwas*, *narbandh* or *agar bandh*, shall be excluded from consideration in calculating the area of rice land that is commanded. The preparation of a new Irrigation Act has been undertaken. At present the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act applies, but it has been found to be unsuitable as the conditions in this province differ very materially from those prevailing in Northern India. Arrangements have been made in the construction of quarters and offices, which are urgently required. The approved programme provides for the construction of an office and quarters for an Executive Engineer at Bilaspur and for nine Sub-Divisional Officers in various localities. Experimental installations of an adjustable proportional module have been made and, though no reports on their working have yet been received, it is understood that they have been found to be satisfactory. The system under which Revenue officers were responsible for the management of certain small tanks has been largely abandoned. Seventeen of the works that were previously managed by them have since been retransferred to the Irrigation Department and only five tanks are now managed by Revenue officers. Since the change was made, a considerable extension of the area irrigated by these works has been obtained. Experiments were carried out in the Wainganga and Mahanadi Divisions to ascertain during what periods rice can, under various conditions and in various soils, last undamaged without irrigation, but it will not be safe to draw conclusions from these experiments unless they extend over a series of years. The question of the concentration of cane areas was taken up, especially in the Chanda district, as the irrigation of small and scattered areas of this crop entails great waste of water and renders distribution difficult. The necessity for the departmental recruitment of labour for the construction of important works was recognized and tentative instructions in the matter were issued. The revision of the rules will not, however, be undertaken until some experience has been gained of the working of these tentative instructions. The Agriculture Department has continued its demonstrations and the multiplication of agencies for providing seed of improved varieties. Two demonstration farms have been opened—one at Mohbarra, in the area commanded by the Roomal tank in the Seoni district in order to demonstrate the possibilities of growing cane in that area, and the other at Baloda Bazar, under the Baloda tank in the Raipur district for the demonstration of improved methods of growing rice, sugarcane, groundnut and wheat under irrigation.

# CHAPTER V

## REVENUE AND FINANCE

### 1.—Gross Revenue and Expenditure

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (a) of the report.]

130 The following table shows the gross revenue and expenditure of the Central and Provincial Governments and the closing balances of the Provincial Governments for 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

	Revenue Receipt		Expenditure		Closing Balance	
	1922-23	1923-24	1922-23	1923-24	1922-23	1923-24
Central Government	1,44,67,678	1,04,22,500	1,02,00,000	1,02,00,000		
Central Provinces Government.	6,37,22,709	6,27,71,087	5,50,00,000	5,30,00,000	7,00,000	7,30,000
Deposits of Local Funds.						
District Funds	22,44,331	65,76,117	55,98,631	50,00,000	1,00,000	5,10,100
Jaila and Local Cess Funds.	1,16,154		1,23,772	2,79,602	2,70,000	
Municipal Funds.	44,68,927	4,90,314	40,85,074	4,10,773	12,55,700	16,41,770
Other Local Funds.	14,89,007	13,80,006	1,00,000	15,00,000	8,00,000	6,50,000
Total	9,05,29,056	8,60,44,122	7,36,66,198	7,20,02,161	1,21,42,061	2,21,67,002

Note.—The difference between the figures for 1922-23 shown in the report for 1922-23 and those shown in the report for 1923-24 is due to subsequent adjustments made after the submission of the report.

## 2 - Revenue and Finance - Central.

131 The following table shows the amount drawn from, and the money spent in the purchase of, the Central Government —

Major head of revenue	1919	Actual 1920	Actual 1921	Actual 1922	Actual 1923	Difference (+) or (-)
I - Customs	3,424.50	74,339	-1,144.00			
I - Taxes on Commerce	58,146.31	5,345	-40,229	1,640,770	72	-43
IV - Opium	7,308.5	10,409	+3,100.00			
X - Tribute	3,352.00	2,460.00	-1,195.00			
XVI - Interest		41	+31			
XXVI - Miscellaneous	3,727	4,55	+1,125			
XXVII - Current	3,501		+74			
XXX - Civil Works	8,766		-15			
XXXIII - Capital	2,816	1,149.65	+2,367			
XXXV - Miscellaneous	94	3,155	-977			
XXXIX - Contribution to the Central Government by Provincial Government	1,000.00	2,000.00				
Miscellaneous	51,719	-771	-7,150			
S - Loans between Central and Provincial Governments	1,515.55	5,90,81	-5,69,67			
Total	1,44,67,628	1,04,12,546	-40,55,102	66,02,002	68,95,506	+2,93,504

## 3 - Revenue and Expenditure - Provincial.

132. The following table compares the actuals of the two years 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

Revenue and Receipts.				Revenue and Receipts			
Major Heads	Actual 1922-23	Actual, 1923-24	Difference, increase (+) or decrease (-)	Major Heads	Actual 1922-23	Actual 1923-24	Difference increase (+) decrease (-)
	Rs.	Rs.	P.		Rs.	P.	Rs.
II.—Taxes on Income.	1,48,790	3,41,032	+1,92,242	XXVI.—Miscellaneous Department	50,509	1,10,020	+59,511
V.—Land Revenue.	2,55,44,664	2,8,13,949	-17,00,715	XX.—Civil Works	4,06,363	4,62,209	+55,846
VI.—Excise	1,25,74,984	1,32,73,000	+6,98,016	XXVII.—Transfers from Finance Insurance Fund.			
VII.—Stamps	58,25,252	67,27,651	+9,02,399	XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of etc	4,59,205	5,64,877	+1,05,672
VIII.—Forest	47,06,974	51,04,929	+3,97,955	XXXIV.—Stationery and Printing	72,810	71,666	-1,144
IX.—Registration	6,82,849	6,61,817	-21,032	XXXV.—Miscellaneous	5,77,293	4,60,574	-1,16,719
XII.—Works for which capital accounts are kept.	63,433	27,639	-35,794	Contribution to the Central Government by Provincial Government.	-22,00,000	-22,00,000	
XIV.—Works for which no capital accounts are kept.	1,22,139	1,35,163	+13,024	Miscellaneous Adjustments.	-51,719	20,731	+72,450
XVI.—Interest.	8,19,478	5,14,111	-3,05,367	Finance Insurance Fund	35,35,210	45,61,970	+10,26,760
XVII.—Administration of Justice	4,67,922	5,05,439	+37,517	Deposits of Sinking Fund.	290	1,28,634	+1,28,344
XVIII.—Jails and Convict Settlements.	2,10,677	2,43,617	+32,940	Loans and advances by Provincial Governments.	57,28,163	33,02,870	-24,25,293
XIX.—Police	3,32,287	1,64,971	-1,67,316	Loans between Central and Provincial Governments	29,25,000	30,70,000	+1,45,000
XXI.—Education	2,73,513	3,87,985	+1,14,472				
XXII.—Medical	76,584	1,30,870	+54,286				
XXIII.—Public Health.	51,270	1,19,220	+67,950				
XXIV.—Agriculture.	2,74,293	2,85,395	+11,102				
XXV.—Industries.	33,451	27,448	-6,003				
				Total	6,37,22,709	6,27,74,387	-9,48,322

Expenditure and Disbursement				Expenditure and Disbursement.			
Major Heads	Actual 1922-23	Actual, 1923-24	Difference increase (+) de- crease (-)	Major Heads	Actual, 1922-23	Actual, 1923-24	Difference increase (+) de- crease (-).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2—Taxes on In- come	.	.	.	31—Education	53,37,136	46,06,312	-4,30,824
5—Land Re- venue	44,174,280	46,28,991	+1,54,711	32—Medical	14,26,862	10,57,216	-59,646
6—Excise	7,97,744	9,50,999	+2,30,955	33—Public Health	3,58,056	2,51,640	-1,06,416
7—Stamps	1,64,333	2,46,570	+82,237	34—Agriculture	13,33,246	14,23,298	+90,052
8—Forest	30,36,17	30,41,106	+4,928	35—Industries	6,29,605	2,63,377	-3,66,228
9—Registration	2,64,501	2,46,768	-17,733	37—Miscellaneous Department	72,98	88,265	+15,337
11—Interest on works, etc	17,72,572	19,55,182	+1,82,610	40—Exchange	.	.	.
5—Miscellaneous irrigation	1,33,736	1,38,123	+4,387	41—Civil Works	63,07,626	68,22,454	+5,14,828
15 (1)—Other revenue expendi- ture finan- ced from fa- mine In- surance grants	2,35,525	2,28,335	-7,190	43—Famine Re- lief	23,31,660	40,58,475	+7,26,815
16—Construction of Irriga- tion works.	11,58,815	..	-11,58,815	45—Supernu- trition	17,46,251	20,40,745	+2,94,494
19—Interest	4,19,561	2,19,918	-1,99,643	46—Stationery	6,23,061	5,92,988	-30,073
21—Reduction or avoidance of debt	..	1,28,333	+1,28,333	47—Miscellaneous outly.	1,78,954	7,89,461	+6,10,507
22—General Ad- ministration	48,54,124	46,73,860	-1,80,264	52-A—Forest ca- pital out- ly.	95,129	1,15,482	+20,353
24—Administra- tion of Jus- tice	31,12,612	30,32,334	-80,278	Expenditure in England	6,52,305	7,00,430	+48,125
25—Jails	9,34,509	9,72,924	+38,415	Capital Expendi- ture on Ir- rigation works	17,40,000	22,77,263	+5,37,263
26—Police	56,68,750	56,47,965	-20,785	60-A—Capital outly.	..	75,820	+75,820
30—Scientific	10,891	12,005	+1,114	Famine Insurance Fund.	4,71,496	3,98,402	-73,094
				Deposits of Sink- ing Fund	..	..	..
				Loans and ad- vances by Provincial Governments.	4,69,722	2,74,508	-1,95,214
				Loans between Central and Provincial Governments.	42,59,556	5,90,388	-36,69,168
				Total	5,59,93,814	5,32,09,637	-27,84,177



## CHAPTER VI

### VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

#### 1.—Births and Deaths

Public Health Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1922. Volume IV  
of the Statistical Abstracts

#### System of registration.

133. Registration work in municipal towns did not receive the attention it required owing to the indifference shown by local bodies.

#### Births.

134. The birth-rate rose from 35.80 to 45.68 per 1,000 of population. This remarkable increase during the year is attributed to the good economic conditions, the absence of epidemics and the consequent healthy conditions for the past two years. The percentage of male to female births was 105.05 against 104.93 in 1922.

#### Deaths

135. The death-rate was 39.53 per mille against 29.31 in the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the high birth-rate, the death-rate is low and this is attributed to the healthy conditions and the absence of epidemics during the year. In comparison with other provinces in India, the Central Provinces again heads the list in birth-rate and stands second in death-rate. Infant mortality fell from 228.73 to 220.29 per mille. The fall reflects the general healthier conditions of the year. The problem of infant mortality is receiving considerable attention. The child welfare work undertaken by the Nagpur Municipality progressed satisfactorily and a definite advance has been made in many other towns by the employment of a municipal midwife or female Assistant Medical Officer for the visiting of mothers and infants.

#### Chief diseases,

136. Mortality from all epidemic and non-epidemic diseases, with the exception of plague, cholera and dysentery, was less than in the preceding year. The province was free from cholera except for a few sporadic deaths. In spite of the heavy rainfall there were no severe outbreaks of malaria anywhere, but in some places the mortality recorded was high. A mild form of influenza was also prevalent. Plague broke out in some districts. It died down in the hot weather, but re-appeared during the rains.

#### Special measures

137. The epidemic dispensaries, which were increased from 27 to 30 during the year, continued to do good work. The anti-rat campaign was continued in Nagpur throughout the year and 90,422 rats were killed either by catching them in

means of having proper drainage, and to take anti-malarial measures, and to use the services of the District Health Publicity Office, and to use the services of the propaganda work and distribution of literature, and to use the services of the

## 2.—Migration of Immigration

Report of the working of the Assam Labour Immigration Act in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st December 1923 (Table IV of the Statistical Abstract)

136. Owing to the improved economic conditions prevailing on account of a good harvest and the emigration of labour who left the province during the year 1923, the number of immigrants who left the province during the year 1923, was 1,513, in spite of the increased facilities for recruiting agencies, which employed 7,362 garden sardars as against 5,513 in the previous year. The proportion of dependents of immigrants fell from 29 per cent to 26 per cent.

139. There were four prosecutions of garden sardars during the year, all of which ended in conviction. The management of depôts and rest-houses was satisfactory. There were no epidemics, and the health of labourers was good.

## 3.—Medical Relief

Notes on Hospital Dispensaries in the Central Provinces for the period ending the 31st December 1923, and Table IV of the Statistical Abstract

140. During the year no new dispensaries were opened and seven were closed. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries at the end of the year was 298; of this total 26 were maintained by the State, 179 by Local Funds and 33 by Railways, the remainder being private institutions. The total number of patients treated during the year was 1,866,940 as against 1,919,286 in 1922. In Railway dispensaries 121,843 patients were treated as against 110,583 in 1922. 187,439 patients were treated in 45 non-aided private dispensaries.

141. The principal diseases for which relief was sought were in numerical order as follows :—

Malaria, diseases of the digestive system, diseases of the eye, inflammation ulcerative, diseases of the skin, diseases of the respiratory system and diseases of the ear.

Increase was chiefly under inflammation ulcerative and diseases of the skin and eye, while malaria and diseases of the respiratory system and digestive system showed a marked decrease.

**Surgical operations.** 142. The total number of surgical operations rose from 56,576 to 60,306.

**Financial results.** 143. The total receipts were Rs. 15,52,343 as against Rs. 15,37,064 in 1922. Government contributions rose from Rs. 4,70,802 to Rs. 5,25,354, the increase being mainly due to the special grant made to the Mayo Hospital, and also to the payment of grants towards improvements of hospitals and quarters of medical subordinates. Local Fund contributions fell from Rs. 1,24,763 to Rs. 1,22,696, while Municipal Fund contributions rose from Rs. 1,21,354 to Rs. 1,35,895. European subscriptions decreased by Rs. 97 and Indian by Rs. 25,192. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 10,49,492 as against Rs. 10,64,587 in 1922.

#### 4.—Treatment of the Insane

[Triennial Report on the Mental Hospital in the Central Provinces for the years 1901, 1922 and 1923, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

144. The number of lunatics in the Nagpur Mental Hospital fell from 341 to 340. There were 62 admissions and five re-admissions. As usual, the Nagpur district furnished the largest number of admissions (21), while Jubbulpore and Akola contributed nine and eight, respectively. Out of a total of 44 discharges, 29 patients were discharged as cured and eight as improved. There were only 24 deaths during the year. The percentage of mortality was 7.01 against 5.73 in 1922 and compares favourably with those of other Mental Hospitals in India. Profits from manufactures increased from Rs. 6,686 to Rs. 7,814 in 1922. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,20,556 against Rs. 1,02,142 in 1922. Of this amount, Rs. 19,166 was spent on the construction of additional buildings. The average cost of dieting and clothing and bedding of a patient was Rs. 110 against Rs. 112 in 1922. Receipts from paying patients rose from Rs. 8,045 to Rs. 11,938, and there was also an increase in other sources of income.

#### 5.—Sanitation

[Public Health Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

**Chief sanitation works.** 145. Owing to financial stringency the programme of sanitary schemes continued to be restricted during the year.

**Municipal sanitation.** 146. Government grants to municipalities amounted to Rs. 36,724, of which Rs. 14,400 were devoted to drainage and the remainder to miscellaneous heads. Municipal Committees spent 38 per cent of their income on sanitation as compared with 46 per cent in 1922.

147. During the year the Village Sanitation Act was with- Rural  
drawn from four villages. The receipts and expenditure in sanitation  
villages in which the Act was in force amounted to Rs. 2,87,121  
and Rs. 2,76,791 against Rs. 2,66,342 and Rs. 2,42,930 in the  
previous year. Rs. 6,315 was spent on water-supply, Rs. 36,440  
on cleaning village sites, Rs. 7,309 on drains, Rs. 23,434 on  
road construction and Rs. 2,03,293 on miscellaneous improve-  
ments. A special grant of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for the  
improvement of the water-supply in rural areas in the districts  
of Berar

#### 6.--Vaccination

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Province and Berar for the year 1921-24 and Volume  
III of the Statistical Abstract]

148. There were 420 deaths from small-pox during the  
year against 373 in 1922-23. The number of vaccinations rose  
from 429,291 to 501,398. In municipal towns 30,254 infants  
under one year of age, or about 76 per cent of those available  
for vaccination, were vaccinated. This percentage is unsatis-  
factory, being lower than in any of the previous years. The  
apathy and indifference of local bodies was largely responsi-  
ble for the neglect of vaccination work both in municipal  
towns and in rural areas. The Vaccine Institute at Nagpur  
continued to provide regular supplies of vaccine for the  
whole province. The total expenditure of the depart-  
ment during the year was Rs. 1,96,210, out of which Local  
Funds contributed Rs. 1,35,542, Municipalities Rs. 18,511 and  
Cantonments Rs. 849.

## CHAPTER VII.

### INSTRUCTION.

#### 1.—Education.

[Report on the State and Progress of Education in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1923-24, and Volume V of Statistics of British India.]

#### General.

149. The number of pupils under instruction increased by 13,090, and the decrease of 5,528 in the enrolment in primary schools mentioned last year has been more than counterbalanced in the year under report, which shows an increase of 8,215 on 1922-23. The number of indigenous schools opened in Berar has been largely responsible for an increase of 45 in the number of unrecognized institutions.

#### Expenditure.

150. Expenditure increased from Rs. 85,83,000 to Rs. 88,35,773. Of this increase, Rs. 1·2 lakhs were absorbed by collegiate education consequent on the establishment of the King Edward College, Amraoti, a quarter of a lakh by the high schools for boys, three quarters of a lakh by primary education and three lakhs by miscellaneous expenditure. Provincial funds contributed 60 per cent of the total cost of education. The average cost per pupil fell from Rs. 19-4-9 to Rs. 18-15-1.

#### Administrative changes.

151. A beginning was made in giving effect to the scheme of transferring Deputy Inspectors to the service of District Councils mentioned in last year's report, the Deputy Inspectors in Amraoti, Balaghat, Bhandara and Hoshangabad having been transferred, experimentally, to the service of the respective District Councils. No other important administrative changes were made.

#### Collegiate education.

152. The Nagpur University was established in August 1923 and Sir B. K. Bose, K.C.I.E., was appointed the first Vice-Chancellor by His Excellency the Chancellor. A Faculty of Education was added during the year. The various bodies of the University have been constituted in accordance with the permanent provisions of the Act. The buildings of the King Edward College, Amraoti, were opened by His Excellency the Governor in July 1923 and the work of the college began in the same month. Plans and estimates for a new College of Science in Nagpur have been prepared and a suitable site selected. The question of providing further hostel accommodation for the Nagpur colleges is becoming urgent.

The number of students on the rolls has increased from 653 to 1,022 during the year, and the increase was shared by

all colleges in spite of the opening of the King Edward College, Amraoti. There has been an increase in the number of post-graduate students in the Morris College from 10 to 24.

153. The High School Board came into existence during the year and the High School Certificate Examination, Central Provinces, has now replaced the Matriculation Examination. Regulations of the Board have been sanctioned by Government and published. The Board has provided an opportunity for bringing public opinion to bear in an increased measure on the problems of Secondary Education. Considerable powers, including power of recognition of High Schools and the prescription of courses of studies and textbooks for High and Middle Schools, have been invested in the Board and the maintenance of an efficient standard of High School Education now lies mainly in its hands. Secondary education of boys.

154. There has been no change in the number of High Schools during the year. The number of recognized Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools is now 145 (52 Government and 93 Aided and Unaided). Enrolment in the High Departments rose from 3,311 to 3,759, and in the Middle Departments from 15,269 to 16,958, making a total increase of 2,137. The increase in the High Departments was most marked in the Government Schools, amounting to 311 out of a total increase of 448. Municipal and private aided Middle Schools mainly shared the increase in the Anglo-Vernacular Middle School pupils. The total number of pupils enrolled in Middle Departments is the largest in the history of the department in this province. National schools generally have failed to make good and most of them ceased to function during the year. Cramming institutions which prepare candidates for extra-provincial examinations have come into existence in recent years, and but for these, the enrolment in the High School classes of recognized schools would have been much higher.

155. Many of the Aided Middle Schools are in need of suitable buildings. Grants aggregating Rs. 5,000 were made to aided schools during the year for equipment. The recruitment of trained teachers is one of the main needs of these schools, and until managers are prepared to pay adequate salaries it is vain to look for much progress in these institutions. At the beginning of the year Middle Schools were

re-organized with three classes, namely, V, VI and VII. But a general demand for the retention of IV Middle School class which had been incorporated within the organization of High Schools became apparent and to meet it Government reverted to the 4th year Middle School course and the 3rd year High School course before the end of the year.

156. The results of examinations indicate a measure of improvement in instruction. The introduction of the vernaculars as media of instruction has apparently complicated problems of administration and inflicted hardship on minority communities as it is impossible to meet the claims of all vernaculars. It is still too early, however, to form any general conclusions on the experiment and it is difficult to gauge the attitude of the general public in this matter.

Primary  
education  
of boys.

157. Compulsory education was introduced in five villages in the Akola district and in the municipal area of Waror. A scheme for the application of compulsion in six villages in the Amraoti district was also sanctioned, and other local bodies are elaborating schemes for sanction. The number of recognized schools increased by 15 to 3,948 and the enrolment by 6,961 to 242,943. The increase in the number of pupils has been greatest in the Berar and Nagpur circles and least in the Jubbulpore circle. The percentage of attendance to enrolment rose from 67 to 68 during the year. The percentage of trained teachers was 40·8 as compared with 35·8 in the previous year. Many District Councils are unable or unwilling to find employment for trained teachers leaving the Normal Schools, and the cadres as a rule show a large proportion of teachers in the lower grade of pay. 763 Board Schools are still without buildings of their own and 203 require extension. Twenty-six buildings had been constructed and 25 were under construction at the close of the year. Inspecting officers have commented on the necessity of maintaining buildings in a more satisfactory state of repair. During the year the Primary School course was reduced from five to four classes and a revised curriculum put into operation.

Female  
education.

158. The number of recognized schools for Indian girls was 373, an increase of four against the decrease of eight in the previous year. The total number of girls enrolled rose to 23,655, an increase of 1,184, out of which 104 were in Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools and 16 in High Schools. Expenditure during the year was Rs. 4,81,469, the decrease of approximately Rs. 20,000 being due to the closure of certain schools and

reduction in the dear district and special allowances. The difficulty of securing competent women teachers is general in all schools. In the Primary Schools the greater proportion of the pupils continued to be enrolled in the lower classes. Only 1,554 candidates appeared for the Primary Certificate Examination and of these 881 were successful. The number of girls in boys' Primary Schools increased from 11,403 to 12,167, the increase being most marked in the Nagpur and Amraoti districts. Opinion is divided as to whether any large extension of the education of girls can be effected by the furtherance of a scheme of co-education. It is reported that the introduction of the compartmental system of training and examination in Women's Normal Schools has produced a marked improvement in the quality of the teachers trained in these schools.

159. The total number of pupils increased from 1,855 to 1,977, the number of boys increasing by 50 and that of girls by 72. Expenditure increased from Rs. 2,24,913 to Rs. 2,30,442. Building grants amounted to Rs. 8,533, and Rs. 7,513 were spent on scholarships. Destitution grants amounted to Rs. 25,767, an amount which was insufficient to meet all deserving demands made under this head. Of the 113 teachers employed in these schools, 58 were untrained and only 12 possessed a University degree. Herein lies one of the weaknesses of European education in this province.

160. The total number of Muhammadan pupils increased from 32,075 to 32,921, and of this total, 1,493 were in unrecognized schools. The increase took place chiefly in Primary Schools for girls and Middle Schools for boys, though the number of pupils in Colleges and High Schools also showed increases of 33 and 63, respectively. An Assistant Professor of Persian was appointed to the King Edward College, Amraoti.

161. At the Spence Training College, Jubbulpore, 25 stipends for graduates and 100 for under graduates were available, of which 13 and 100, respectively, were actually awarded. A special class for the training of Drawing Masters was opened during the year.

The number of Normal Schools remained at 11, but there was a reduction in the number of scholars from 1,504 to 1,403. It is hoped that the District Councils will replace untrained



and uncertificated teachers on their staff at an early date by the trained teachers leaving the Normal Schools.

**Technical  
education.**

162. Technical education formed one of the subjects of enquiry by a Committee appointed by Government in 1922 to consider the question of vocational training. A resolution on the report of this Committee was issued by Government in May 1924. The Victoria Technical Institute discontinued its Mechanical Engineering class and restricted its activities to instruction in carpentry, metal work and oil engines. The Engineering School, Nagpur, had 104 students at the end of the year, 43 in the Civil, 42 in the Mechanical and 19 in the Motor Mechanical Engineering Departments.

**Rajkumar  
College.**

163. The number of Kumars rose to 49. Government grants amounted to Rs. 40,000 and the College endowment fund, the establishment of which will in future obviate the necessity for Government grants, is estimated to yield an income of Rs. 5 lakhs in the next financial year.

**Depressed  
class  
education.**

164. The total number of pupils of the depressed classes decreased from 29,065 to 28,553, about one half of this number being enrolled in Class I of Primary Schools, 35 in High Schools and 10 in Colleges. The paucity of pupils in the post-primary stages of education is striking. Grants aggregating Rs. 1,865 were made to the depressed classes hostels at Amraoti, Nagpur and Chikhli. A building grant of Rs. 25,000 was sanctioned for the construction of a new building for the Chokhamela Hostel, Nagpur. Cases occurred in which depressed class pupils were denied equality with the pupils of other classes in the schools maintained by local bodies.

**2.—Literature and the Press.**

165. During the year 1923-24 the publications registered in the province numbered 251 as against 177 of the previous year, 192 in 1921-22 and 116 in 1920-21. The increase was general amongst all kinds of publications and was particularly noticeable under 'Geography', 'History', 'Miscellaneous' and 'Religion'. This year, again, there were no publications under 'Voyage and Travel'. Of the books published, 21 were in English, 113 in Hindi, 63 in Marathi, 30 in Urdu (including those in Nagri characters) and one each in Gujarati and Chhattisgarhi. The remaining 22 publications were bilingual or trilingual. The number of publications of an educational character rose to 35 from 19 in the previous year.

166. The number of newspapers and periodicals in existence at the end of the year was 56 as against 45 at the commencement of the year. In the course of the year 26 new newspapers and periodicals appeared, while 15 ceased publication. Among the new publications six were daily, one bi-weekly, eight weekly, one tri-monthly, two fortnightly, seven monthly and one quarterly. Of these, 10 were in Marathi, 14 in Hindi and two in Urdu. The increase in the number of papers did not represent a real demand for more papers, and most of the new journalistic ventures were short-lived. The tone of the press continued to be hostile to Government. The 'Karmavir' lost its premier place among the extremist journals. The 'Hitvada' (Liberal) on the other hand is gaining in influence, and the 'Maharashtra' continues to enjoy the foremost position among the Marathi journals.

### 3.—Literary Societies.

167. The number of literary and scientific societies in existence at the close of the year was 95 against 105 in the previous year. The majority were libraries supported chiefly by subscriptions. Four societies received grants from Government, eight from Municipal Committees, two from District Councils and four from both Municipal Committees and District Councils.

### 4.—Arts and Science.

168. The average daily attendance at the Nagpur Museum rose from 623 to 675, a noticeable feature being the large number of students and school children among the visitors who made use of and consulted the Natural History, Geological and Entomological collections. The Archæological section has been enriched by an inscribed wooden pillar from Kirari, Bilaspur district, dating somewhere between the 1st to 3rd century A.D. Several copper-plate grants bearing the seal of Prithivi Deva I have also been received from the same district.

169. Fifteen cases of Treasure Trove coins were reported and 47 gold, 679 silver and seven copper coins were acquired. The most valuable find was that of 1,801 silver coins from the Amraoti district belonging to the Rashtrakuta Dynasty (about 400 A.D.).

170. Additions and improvements have been made in most of the sections, but the Industrial, Geological and Ethnological sections are still in a very congested state for want of further

accommodation in the rooms in which they are contained. The proposal to add two wings to the Museum building has been approved by the local Government and it is hoped that funds for the work will be available in the near future. Additions to the Natural History section have chiefly been carried out in the fish and invertebrate galleries. The collection of local fish appears to be rather popular, and a survey of the fish fauna of the local tanks is in progress. A Hand-list of the Birds of the Central Provinces has been published by the Museum.

171. The need of a reference library and a students' consulting room attached to the Museum is badly felt.

172. Local industrial goods to the value of Rs. 3,940-2-9 were sold by the Emporium during the period under report

## **CHAPTER VIII.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS.**

#### **1 - Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction**

173. The Anglican Diocese of Nagpur, which was formed in 1903, includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, the district of Sambalpur in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, Central India, Ajmer-Merwara and all stations in Rajputana except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

#### **2 - Stationery**

174. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including the cost of carriage, as well as of stationery purchased locally, was Rs. 1,20,036 in 1923-24 against Rs. 1,13,806 in 1922-23. The value of stationery supplied to printing presses decreased from Rs 2,28,276 to Rs 1,66,011.

#### **3 - Registration of rainfall.**

175. The number of raingauges maintained during the year rose from 168 to 169, as an additional raingauge was established at Chaurai in the Chhindwara district. Of this total, 13 gauges were under the control of the Meteorological Department, 16 of the Feudatory States and one of the Agricultural Department ; the remainder, including the rain-gauge attached to the observatory at Buldana, which was abolished, were under the supervision of the Director of Land Records. The Irrigation Department maintained 21 additional gauges at various irrigation works. The number of inspections rose from 199 to 250.